BUSINESS / B1
RP stocks expected to continue bull run into next year

LIFESTYLE / C1
A reader-friendly celebration of all things Harry Potter

ENTERTAINMENT / F6
Cinemalaya 2007 reels off; film entry faces disqualification

NEWS / A2
Palace fails in last-ditch effort to resolve speakership issue

Basilan folk flee homes as fight looms

By Julie S. Alipala in Isabela City and Alcuin Papa in Manila

MARINES HAVE BEGUN DEPLOYING ON BASILAN island and residents have started to flee their homes in the face of defiant Moro rebel pronouncements that there will be no compliance with the military ultimatum for the surrender by yesterday of those responsible for the grisly killing of 14 soldiers.

BASILAN A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, July 23, 2007 ★★ 19 sections | Vol. 32 | No. 225 P18 www.inquirer.net

Not even a gate pass for Trillanes at Sona

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

BOY CRUZ A10

LEFT/LEFT: prepare a "monster" effigy of President Macapagal-Arroyo for today's protest rally.

Antiterror law top issue in GMA Sona

She will also call for unity, cite economic gains

By Christine O. Avendaño

WHEN PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo addresses the nation today, she will issue a call for unity and mention the government's fight against terrorism through the Human Security Act (HSA) of 2007, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday said.

The antiterror law took effect on July 15.

In a 51-minute-long State of the Nation Address (Sona) that she is expected to deliver at the opening of the 14th Congress in the House of Representatives, the President will also stress the need to further strengthen the country's economic gains.

As in Sonas past, protesters are expected to gather in the vicinity of the House of Representatives to protest their version of the state of the nation, usually in stark contrast to the President's speech.

Militant groups like the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) said they would put the spotlight on the antiterror law, which they fear would lead to more human rights violations, forced disappearances and political killings.

In his seventh Sona, Mr Arroyo will also touch on the measurements she made in previous addresses, including the one last year in which she unveiled massive infrastructure programs to spur growth, according to her political adviser Gabriel Claudio. (See story at left.)

It's partly updating, validation

AMY ESMAN A10

Sona 2006: Some promises were not kept

By Tony S. Bergonia

ABOUT A YEAR AGO TODAY, PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo stood on the same stage she will stand on today, will deafen by a coup attempt that came close to bringing her controversy-ridden administration to an abrupt end.

The plot to assassinate her haunted Ms Arroyo as she delivered her sixth State of the Nation Address (Sona) on July 24, 2006, barely four months after a group of rumbling military officers came in groups of 5 and 10 to her residence to pressure her administration.

If she was jarred by the thought of some of her former military officers plotting against her, it didn't show in the tone of her voice, or in her body language.

But her speech dreamed a few lines on the planned ouster.

"The low and mean have been vindicated by the people," she wrote and in her 2006 Sona. "They and their partisan cohorts and hirelings are being brought to justice. To the greatest number of soldiers and policemen who stood by the Constitution, thank you very much."

Ms Arroyo said those words as the man who was largely credited with tipping the coup plot to the final act in the audience—Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr.

In the new Sona of Feb. 24, 2006, Esperon left a fourth-hand recording of major service commanders and other ranking officers of the AFP in Camp Aguinaldo to deliver an urgent message straight to Ms Arroyo in Malacañang—a coup was in the works.

The plot fizzled out in morning broke on Feb. 25, the day it was to be executed.

NONOY ESPINA A12

FIRST MASS. Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi addresses a Mass at the Mary Queen of Apostles Parish Church in Paraisopo City, his first since he was released by his kidnappers in Lanao del Norte.

Bishops won't condone kidnap gambit

By Nikko Dizon

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC EPISCOPATE does not condone the reported "kidnap for kidnap" gambit that the government had reportedly employed to secure the release of Fr Giancarlo Bossi, Archbishop Antonio Ledesma said yesterday.

"We would not condone that because that is another violation of human rights," said Ledesma, vice president of the influential Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

The Cagayan de Oro prelate said he had read Bossi-day's keynote report that said government agents had seized family members of the leader of the kidnap gang in a bid to secure the release of the Italian missionary.

Even if it meant Bossi's freedom, Ledesma said that such a strategy was another form of violence.

"We cannot condone this violence-to-violence act," he said.

The CBCP also has a "standing rule that it would not pay ransom for any priest who has been kidnapped," said Ledesma.

Bossi, 57, celebrated his first Sunday Mass at a suburban church since his release. The downtrend Peter reported. About 200 people applauded as Bossi got up to speak.

"I still feel like a prisoner," he jokingly said, adding that he was overwhelmed.

BISHOPS A10

A VERDICT? held with a pair of tweezers in this 2002 file photo, offers security and medical identification benefits when implanted in people.

CHIPS IN HUMANS

High-tech helpers or surveillance tools?

MIAMI—CITYMPD.BB.COM, a premise of surveillance equipment, attracted little notice until—until a year ago when two of its employees had glass-encapsulated microchips with minimum antennas embedded in their arms.

The "chipping" of two workers in Mexico—radio frequency identification tags as long as two grains of rice and as thick as a toothpick—was merely a way of restricting access to drinks that held sensitive data and images for police department morals, a layer of security be-

HIGH-TECH A13

Summit ends with citizens having fewer liberties

By Armando Doronila

MALACAÑANG HAS DEFLECTED calls of the Supreme Court-led legal summit for President Macapagal-Arroyo to order a stop to extra-judicial killings with a promise to take a "serious look" at its recommendations.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita at the outset undermined the Palace's seriousness of purpose when he downgraded the summit recommendations as a "complementary effort" to what he said the executive branch had been doing to end the bloodshed.

The summit announced its recommendations on Tuesday at the end of the multisectoral conference attended by human rights groups and law enforcement organizations, including the Armed Forces, the Philippine National Police and the Department of Justice.

ANALYSIS

In describing the recommendations as "a complementary effort" to Palace actions, Ermita said "they know the efforts of the President to address the extrajudicial killings," implying that the summit resolutions were superfluous.

The problem is that the summit participants did not recognize those "efforts" were even made at all. This was the reason they formulated a number of resolutions, including calling for the adoption of new laws that would empower investigators to search suspects' and

SUMMIT A12

Inquirer most-read English daily, says poll

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER is the English daily newspaper of choice for almost half or 46 percent of those who read English daily newspapers in the Greater Manila area, according to a recent survey conducted by Synovate.

Synovate is the market research arm of Angus Group Plc., a marketing services firm based in London.

Synovate's Ilot Media Atlas survey found that of the more than 1.24 million Filipinos who read English newspapers and belong to the ABCD classes in Greater Manila, 46 percent read the Inquirer, 44 percent the Manila Bulletin, and 36 percent the Philippine Star.

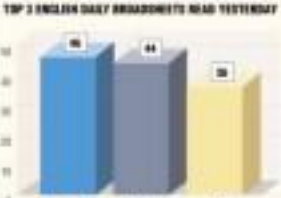
The Inquirer had an estimated readership of over 634,000 from the ABCD classes. The Manila Bulletin came in second with about 560,000 ABCD readers, while the Philippine Star placed third with over 460,000 ABCD readers.

The Greater Manila area covered by the survey includes Metro Manila and nearby Meycauayan in Bulacan, Bacoor in Cavite, San Pedro in Laguna, Cainta in Rizal and Antipolo City.

Thirteen percent of the households belong to the AB class, earning more than P50,000 a month, while 17 percent belong to the C+ class, with a monthly

INQUIRER A11

TOP 3 ENGLISH DAILY BROADSHEETS READ YESTERDAY



Second FRONTPAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

Solons paid to attend sessions?

On eve of Sona, speakership row far from settled

By Christine F. Figueras and Christine O. Avendaño

WITH ONLY A FEW HOURS left before President Macapagal-Arroyo delivers her State of the Nation Address (Sona) at the opening of the 14th Congress this afternoon, the issue of who will be next Speaker of the House of Representatives is far from settled.

A last-ditch bid supposedly by Malacañang to finally end the impasse between two of its allies, who both aspire to be Speaker, failed yesterday.

As a result, both Bataan Rep. Jose de Venecia and Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia said yesterday they would contest the speakership in the plenary assembly scheduled for noon today.

Both contenders have ruled out further talks.

"No more meetings. We've accommodated all [the requests already]," De Venecia, who is eyeing a record fifth term, told the Inquirer.

Garcia also slammed the door on De Venecia, saying there would be no further discussions.

Garcia was apparently incensed by De Venecia's "insistence" of dragging Malacañang into their dispute.

Majority congressmen

On Saturday, De Venecia announced that Malacañang had invited majority congressmen to a caucus to select a Speaker through secret balloting. The caucus, set at 9 a.m. yesterday in Malacañang, was canceled apparently because the Garcia camp decided to boycott it.

"It was a good thing also that it was canceled because if it happened, we would go (around) town accusing the President of intervening," Garcia told the Inquirer during an "all-party" caucus at the Manila Golf Club in Makati yesterday.

Malacañang, however, has opted to keep its distance from the speakership row but expressed confidence it would be resolved fairly today by members of the House.

"The Palace did not see the prospect or attainability of directly intervening to resolve the matter of leadership in the House," the President's political adviser, Gabriel Claudio, said in a text message.

Statesmanship and decorum

"We rely on the members of the House to exercise the statesmanship and decorum to settle the speakership issue among themselves," he added.

Claudio said the Palace did not believe the latest rivalry would develop into a "crisis."

"Both sides are conscious of the need to settle the speakership row before the Sona so that the President can deliver her speech in an atmosphere of cooperation and civility," Claudio said.

Both the De Venecia and Garcia camps also expressed confidence the dispute would not intrude the President's Sona.

Former Majority Leader Prospero Nograles, a De Venecia ally, had floated the possibility in the event the lower house failed to elect a leader.

Rep. Luis Villafuerte, president of the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), this bailiwick party, said he would move for the election of an acting Speaker so as not to delay the President's Sona in the event of a protracted debate on the speakership issue.

According to Villafuerte, in case of failure to elect a Speaker before 1 p.m. today, the House members may either elect an acting speaker just for the purpose of representing the House to preside over the joint session, or could designate the House secretary general to do so.

Villafuerte is supporting Garcia's bid while former Secretary Ronaldo Puno, Kampi chair, heads a faction of the party rooting for De Venecia.

Secret ballot

Garcia said a new Speaker could be selected within an hour if De Venecia's camp would agree on holding the election in a secret ballot.

He said this procedure would allow representatives "the fullest opportunity and freedom to express their individual preferences without fear of displeasing anybody."

De Venecia had agreed to a secret ballot but only in a majority's caucus, not in the plenary.

The 52-member minority bloc was also in favor of a secret ballot, according to opposition Rep. Rufus Rodriguez of Cagayan de Oro.

"I am just wondering why De Venecia and his supporters are suddenly, almost violently, opposed to a secret ballot if indeed they have the numbers," Rufus said.

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Correction

IN EARLY EDITIONS OF TUESDAY'S issue, a story on Page A6 carried an erroneous headline. The headline should have read, "Chinese candy maker protests... not groceries... ban from SF"

+++

Readers may send their inquiries for correction of factual errors in stories to the Editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th floor, Chino Roces Avenue corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City, fax this #637-45-2161, e-mail address: dailyinq@inquirer.com.ph.

Militants push 'amparo' to find colleagues

LUCENA CITY—THE RELIGIOUS RELIEving Magdalenakid ng Pilipinas (MRP) urged the Supreme Court to expedite the implementation of the "writ of amparo" to facilitate the search for missing activists or "desaparecidos."

Danilo Ramos, secretary general of BMP, one of the participants in the recent Supreme Court summit on extrajudicial killings, said it was agreed upon during the conference that the "writ of amparo" would be used to help locate and safeguard missing activists, as well as compel state instrumentalities to open up all their facilities to probers.

"We are now asking the high court to speed up the process because time is really of the essence," Ramos said in a statement.

He said Anna Rosga, Mia Sinda, Evelyn Cadapan, Karen Empeno and other missing activists of rural legal help through the "writ of amparo."

Former Chief Justice Antonio Nachura said the writ had been used to institutionalize measures to protect the rights of victims of disappearances.

Perquisites emphasized the writ would compel state agents to look for a missing person. And if the court were to find that the officials did not exert enough effort to find the person, it could hold them liable.

In the Philippines, relatives of missing persons usually filed a petition for habeas corpus to compel the state to produce victims of forced disappearance.

But, citing his own experience, Chief Justice Reynato Puno said petitions for habeas corpus usually ended up with state agents simply denying that they had the missing person in their custody.

"With the writ implemented, the Armed Forces of the Philippines would be persuaded if it did not exhaust all efforts to find missing activists. It also compels their units to harass and malign our organizations and members. To escape blame and to divert the issue, they are investigating us and those who are missing, while abandoning points to the military as the culprits," Ramos said.

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'Mayors helping other mayors'

MANDALUYONG City Mayor Benhur Abalos was elected yesterday president of the League of City Mayors and said his first order of business would be to share the wealth of the cities with the poorer municipalities.

"It's a good symbol of mayors helping other mayors," Abalos said.

He replaced Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas.

Abalos said he would encourage his fellow mayors to donate funds to third-class municipalities for social services and the construction of classrooms and daycare centers.

He said the league would also oversee bills it would shepherd through Congress, as well as projects in the provinces.

Others elected were Mayors Evelin Inumerable (Bacoor, vice chair; Alfonso Lacson (Bongao), CPP; Mel Senen Sumaoang (Calbayog), secretary general; Abraham Tolentino (Tagaytay), treasurer; Marides Fernando (Marikina), VP for NCR; Amadeo Perez (Calamba), VP Luzon; Hector Villanueva (Bais), VP Visayas; Pedro Acharon Jr. (General Santos), VP Mindanao.

Mayors Alfredo Vergara (Candon), Alvin Zaldin (Tuba-ao) and Jennifer Tan (Tangub) are deputy secretaries general for Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, respectively. Abalos also

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NBI's 'new blood' to head probe of political killings

By Tina G. Santos
INQUIRING GLOBE INVESTIGATIONS

political killings, the historical fortress of investigation has announced a revamp aimed at bringing in "new blood" to strengthen the agency's operations in the countryside.

"We need young blood and plausible bullets in the bureau to handle plausible cases, particularly [unexplained] killings and forced disappearances," said Deputy Director Reynaldo Esmeralda, head of the NBI regional operations service.

Esmeralda explained amounts over the recent spate of political killings in Bataan, Leyte, Tarlac, Batangas, Cagayan and Bicol (in particular in the region's 2007 election campaign) is "admirable."

On the evening that took effect on July 15, Head Agents Augusto Magkawas, formerly chief of the Special Actions Unit, replacing Assistant Regional Director Victoria de Guzman to who was named chief of the Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division (AFCCD).

Regional Director Edwin Atencio, former chief of the AFCCD, replaced Jesus Jose Aspi, top official of the Intelligence Division. Aspi was designated acting regional director of the Northeastern Mindanao Regional Office in Cagayan de Oro City.

Head Agent Sara Cuesta was appointed chief of the Intelligence Special Operations Division, replacing Head Agent Allan Castanedo, who was made head of the Anti-Cash Division.

Others who were appointed to new posts were Rafael Alunan, regional director and executive official, respectively, for Bicol region; Mia Salbador, acting regional director for Central Mindanao; Edward Mabaw, executive officer, Violence Against Women and Children Division; Noel Morales, chief of the Security Management Division.

Dante Pat, executive officer, Office of the Deputy Director for Intelligence Service, Rosalina Osung, chief of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Intelligence Division, who was transferred to the Central Mindanao Regional Office, and regional director now operating, who was reassigned as the chief of the Deputy Director for Regional Operations Service.

Watchdog reveals gainers, losers in Senate count

By Miko Dizon

TEN HONORABLE candidates, seven of them from the administration bailed Team Unity, were the "top gainers" from the recount due to reasons similar to the precinct and provincial levels, as well as in the Commission on Elections (Comelec) and the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel)'s count in the May 14 elections, according to an election watchdog.

Rolando Bacan, pd, or Bold, said the biggest beneficiary of the tally discrepancies was TU candidate Ralph Recto, who nonetheless lost in the commercial race. Other gainers were Manuel Villar, Juan Miguel Zubiri, Francisco Tatad, Francisco Ilagan, Prospero Pichay, Mike Defensor, Vicente Sotto, Juker Arroyo and Lito "Cheche" Lapid.

Biggest loser

The biggest loser was TU's Jamalul Kiram III, cohort of Raul Ilo, who lost votes in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), his home region, as well as in other provinces where party mates won.

Bold did not say that the candidates who gained from the discrepancies cheated. That is called for an official investigation or prosecution by the proper authorities.

Bold said it recommended the provincial and city certificates of canvass (COCs) and the statements of votes (SoVs) on the precinct level to come up with the report. It also compared the Comelec and Namfrel results and validated

Bishops won't condone kidnap gambit

From page A1

by the Ilaisilgale and Buroy of media interviews.

Ransomed?

On Saturday, Bonol told CBCPNews online at the Holy Queen of Apostles Parish in Pandaguan City that he believed he was kidnapped for ransom but that he did not know if it was actually paid.

Bonol, who was freed on Thursday, said he never feared for his life. He said he was "always in high spirits and a joyful person."

However, in the early days of his 40-day captivity he wondered if he and his abductors were praying to the same God.

"My abductors prayed with semi-suicide weapons in their right and me, their hostage, to their left," Bonol said. "If I have to pray thanking God with the Armalite on my hand and the gun-

Story, page A4

ner on my side, I would be ashamed to pray."

He said that as a priest, he believed that "faith and life are one," but his captors "believed a gap exists between faith and life." the captors had many told him they were "frustrated," but ashamed they were "poor, poor subsistence fishermen," he said.

Reaction to CBCPNews that his captors were brought him to Basilan, have no confusion, Lanao del Norte. The kidnap missionary said his "personal idea" was he would be released by August or "soon after."

Charges unlikely

The Bonol Basilan by Arroyo Mission (Pime), to which Bonol belongs, announced in Zamboanga City that it would not allow Bonol to testify against his abductors.

"It's been our way, our practice (not to file charges). It's our way of life," Fr. Eliseo Mariñido, regional superior of the Pime, told reporters on Friday.

Bonol earlier told reporters in Zamboanga City that he knew the faces of his captors, and he would report them to the police if he saw them again.

Bonol also said he was informed by his captors that they were members of the Abu Sayyaf Group based in Basilan and that the motive of the abduction was to get ransom.

Senior Supt. Francisco Celestial, Zamboanga Sibugay police chief, said Bonol remained the key to the illegal arms case against his kidnappers.

"We really need his testimony, but we cannot force him to do so," Celestial said.

Meeting with Pope

Bonol, however, will talk to Pope Benedict XVI about his ordeal when he attends a youth meeting on Sept. 11 in the central Italian town of Loreto, said Msgr. Giuseppe Betori, secretary general of the Italian bishops' conference and chief spokesman of the events.

In a statement, Betori said Bonol's "courageous experience as a missionary will come into the hearts of many young people."

Bonol had told the Vatican-affiliated Fides missionary news agency Asia/Oceania he was due to return to Italy to visit his gran, and that he would be glad to take part in the Loreto event.

"It would be a truly marvelous moment: I have never met the Pope (a world really here great meeting for me," Bonol told the agency on Saturday.

In an interview with Vatican Radio on Friday, Bonol thanked Benedict, who said last week that he was praying daily for Bonol. With report by Jhoni Pablo *Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao, AP*

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Basilan folk flee homes . . .

From page A1

"We are not going to war," said Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, in a text message to reporters in Camp Aguinaldo yesterday. "We are going to assist the lawmakers."

Malaysian Ajjad, chief negotiator of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, told the inquirer yesterday that the MILF was rejecting government demands to turn over fighters involved in the July 10 ambush in Sumisip during which 10 of the 14 Basilan Light Infantry Battalion soldiers died and that—as are denounced by officials as "barbaric" and contrary to the norms of war.

The soldiers were searching for kidnapped Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi when they were ambushed by MILF rebels, allegedly assisted by Al-Qaeda-linked Abu Sayyaf bandits. Bossi, 57, was freed on Thursday after 40 days' captivity in Mindanao, Latest BetNews.

Iqbal said there was no "moral basis" for the government demand because the killings happened during a "legitimate encounter" and there was no provision for such a demand even in the ceasefire accord between the MILF and the Philippine government.

"We will wait for the aggressors to come," he said. "Our fighters in Basilan will now strengthen our right to self-defense, which is God-given as anyone who is attacked right in his home."

Residents flee

But Samar Al, an MILF member and representative in the Basilan's ceasefire monitoring team, said what forces numbering "thousands" had been and started to intimidate civilians in positions.

"If we are being fired at, we will not flee back. But if the government soldiers enter our territory, we will defend it to our last breath," Al told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

Mayor Hadjirul Sarum said most of the 10,000 residents in his town of Albacia were staying but more residents in the barangays of Ginasa, Tim-

Story, page A4

pa, Maluhang and Lamingan had fled their homes.

Acting Defense Secretary Norberto Gonzales on the radio ordered the military to mount punitive action against those responsible for the beheading of the soldiers unless the MILF surrendered them by yesterday.

But as time ticked, only defiant statements came from MILF spokesmen.

Brig. Gen. Ramon Alivio, 1st Marine Brigade commander in Isabela, said he was waiting for the signal from higher-ups on whether to launch the offensive.

"We are just hearing time right now. But we can declare when and how it's operational in esprom," Alivio said.

No deadline extension

Western Mindanao Command chief Lt. Gen. Eduardo Ano earlier said the ultimatum for the MILF to turn over those who were involved in the beheading would end today. He said the military did not have any plan to extend the deadline.

"The MILF leadership already knows our intention, that we have given them a time limit. It is for them to understand what will be the consequence if they will not surrender the people who murdered our soldiers," he said.

But Eid Kabalu, speaking for the MILF, said it had not been "determined if indeed MILF forces were involved in the killing."

"That's why we have to let the investigation begin, if any erupts, this will not be the ending of the MILF," Kabalu said.

A source in the military said continued military pressure had been going on since last week so that the MILF would not have the chance to regroup.

Another source, a ranking official, said five Marine battalions had been dispatched to Basilan. Several battalions have also been deployed to the Sulu province for a possible outbreak of violence in Central Mindanao.

Basilan Rep. Wahab Akbar, in a phone interview on Saturday night, said while he could not prevent a possible military operation in his province, he did not want clashes to happen and cause displacement of thousands of residents.

Akbar said he had met with Gov. Gaddy Ly Amparsan of the administration Region to Muslim Mindanao on contingency measures for defense and affected communities.

Fr. Romeo Ho, Jesuit, provincial head of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in the Philippines and former president of Xavier University in Cotabato City, said an impartial investigation should be "given a chance to work, according to the mechanisms of the prevailing ceasefire agreement."

Abdulmalik Mohammad Iqbal, Rebel Leader, also appealed to the Organization of the Islamic Conference to exercise its influence on the MILF to help pacify the situation in Mindanao.

Gordon also joined the clamor for the MILF to give time to negotiate and work tasked to investigate the July 10 ambush.

"Whatever did that it an outcast, an outlaw," Gordon said, considering what had been widely described as a "barbaric act."

With reports from Mark R. Madarang, Joselito Sadongdong and Joyjoy Mabini, Inquirer Mindanao

Jamby blames Erap for loss of Senate

By DIC. Calauagan Jr.

THE LEADERSHIP OF DEPOSED PRESIDENT Joseph Estrada of the opposition has been put to its question after his son, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, aligned himself with the administration coalition that elected Manuel Villar Senate President.

Opposition Sen. Jamby Madrigal told Estrada in a letter that he was "partially responsible" for the opposition missing a golden opportunity to wrest control of the Senate after it won control of the 12 Senate seats up for grabs in the May 14 elections.

Madrigal said Estrada was "interesting, if not actively encouraging, the opposition to connect with the administration," when he consented to his son joining Genuine Opposition Senators like Peter Cayetano, Pimentel lieutenants and Villar in the majority bloc formed with nine administration senators.

"You succeeded your successor to embarrass you. But now your son has taken a prominent role in embarrassing you," said Madrigal, who appealed to Estrada to step up and stop the opposition from losing its chance to take control of the Senate.

"The country has kept you in its affections, but that affection will not survive a (court's) compromising with his enemies. Merely to protect (the privileges of your son, or to mitigate a punishment) pictured to be handed down by a court you have never fully recognized, to do either of these things would be to prove your detractors right and betray the extraordinary trust has kept birth with you in good times and bad," Madrigal said.

The fund-grabbing is reported to hand down soon to verdict in the plunder trial of Estrada.

He can, and co-accused, stressed that he only voted for Villar for Senate President but was not joining the administration coalition.

After soundly thumping the administration slate in the May 14 elections, the opposition was looking forward to controlling the 23-seat Senate.

But after Villar, Cayetano, Senators and Estrada broke ranks with them, the opposition ...made up of Madrigal, Aquino-Oreta Jr., Manuel Roxas II, Panfilo Lacson, Rodolfo Biazon, Loren Legarda, Benigno Aquino III and Antonio Trillanes IV—would be entering the 14th Congress as the minority bloc with little say on key committee positions.

Pimentel told reporters yesterday that Estrada was in an "unenviable position" after his son joined the administration coalition.

"President Estrada is known to be a prime mover of the opposition and now, apparently, his own son is supporting a candidate who has made arrangements with the administration. That is not very easy to explain but they have a way of explaining it, so I hope the people will understand," said Pimentel, who would have been the opposition's candidate for Senate President.

"We could have elected the Senate President between ourselves without going to the administration," he said.

Lacson said the senators who went under the opposition banner in the last elections should explain why they joined the administration bloc.

"After the public had executed a mandate to us (here, they have to show that their) opposition, I don't think they would get the number of votes they got if they ran under the administration," Lacson said.

Extended voter list-up sought

FORMER NATIONAL ECONOMY MOVEMENT for Free Elections (Namfrel) chair Jose Concepcion Jr. yesterday appealed to the Commission on Elections to extend for another week the registration of voters for the barangay elections.

The regular registration ended yesterday.

Concepcion told the business an extension was necessary to accommodate the huge number of people who want to vote in the synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections on Oct. 29.

Concepcion, who is chair of Barangay Parkan Park in Makati City, said Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. tasked Comelec his request on Friday but he was requesting it.

Abalos told reporters on Friday that with the 3M registration would be extended. The last BP elections was held six years ago.

Abalos said he saw no need to extend the registration for the barangay election because a registration drive was conducted last December and he doubted if hundreds of thousands of Filipinos would turn 18 between May and October.

Abalos had ordered an investigation into the unexpected heavy turnout of registrants in local Comelec offices, which resulted in congestion. Nikko Dizon

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, July 23, 2007
16th Week in Ordinary Time
Bridget

1st Reading: Ex 14:5-18
Gospel: Matthew 12:38-42

Some teachers of the Law and some Pharisees spoke up, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from you." Jesus answered them, "An evil and unfaithful people wants a sign, but no sign will be given them except the sign of the prophet Jonah. In the same way that Jonah spent three days and three nights in the belly of the monster fish, so will the Son of Man spend three days and three nights in the depths of the earth.

"At the judgment, the people of Nineveh will rise with this generation and condemn it, because they welcomed them from as the preaching of Jonah, and here there is greater than Jonah. At the judgment, the Queen of the South will stand up and condemn you. She came from the ends of the earth to listen to the wisdom of Solomon, and here there is greater than Solomon."

Commentary

The people here need the proof: realize who he is and, let someone his shortsightedness and pass other them. The people are terrified and are not against Moses, but he tells them not to be fled this evil tells them not to fear, and that God will give them victory. He introduces our his arm to tell now the waters and they part so that the people can cross dry land to the other side. The Egyptians pursue them into the waters and the waters close over them. The glory of the Lord is on the life of his people. They know then he is the Lord. This is the real "I AM" that the people know in days past.

But Jesus does not want us to live the God of yesterday or tomorrow and later. Now will he to signs and to great displays, especially for people who do not believe. The only sign will be the sign of Jonah—Jesus has died in the tomb for three days before Jesus rose from the dead. God "I AM" will reveal the wisdom of his cross and resurrection and we there here given to know this wisdom. Do we worship and hear Father's desire as Jesus?

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Reyes urged: Before you go, stop tree-cutting

By TJ Burgonio

BEFORE HE LEAVES HIS POST, EN-vironment Secretary Angelo Reyes would do well to revoke a permit allowing the cutting of trees along Macarthur Highway in Bulacan, a green group said yesterday.

The Bantay Kalikasan Movement (BKM) said Reyes was contradicting himself by pushing for the planting of 40 million trees across the country, while at the same time allowing the cutting of trees on the highway, a northern artery of Metro Manila.

"Mr. senior 'green' Philippine highways or launch a 'Trees for Life' campaign, as Reyes initiated, while allowing the cutting of hundreds of decades-old trees along a historical Philippine highway," BKM president Joey Papa said in a statement based in the boonies.

"The environment is non-negotiable and the DENR [secretary should] not as a servant," he said.

Reyes has been spearheading "Trees for Life," a joint project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Green Army to plant 30 million trees to reinvest protected areas, critical watersheds, mangrove areas, agroforestry and fruit tree areas, and parks across the country.

But before launching this project, he issued a special permit on Jan. 2 this year for the cutting of 628 trees along a stretch of Macarthur Highway from Bocaue to Calumpit town in Bulacan to give way to a road-widening project, according to the green group.

Papa said Reyes should revoke the permit before he turns over his post to former Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, and takes over from Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla.

Edmonton, the movement and other environmental groups would have no choice but to pressure the next environment secretary to cancel it, he said.

Officials of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines in Bulacan had earlier alerted Rangan Kalikasan to the cutting of 98 trees along the highway. This prompted the environment group to mark a symposium entertaining other fears the road could do.

After the group offered to appeal to Reyes to revoke the permit, the Malolos Regional Trial Court granted a TRO. Reyes has so far ignored their appeal, according to Papa.

"The environmental crisis is critically urgent now. The experts are giving us only 10 years to do something dramatic, drastic, to reverse and mitigate what is now an almost irreversible situation of rising temperatures and extreme changes in the climate around the world," he said.

At the same time, BKM shared fairness to close down all dumps that continue to operate in violation of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, and replace these with host-type based "ecology centers."

Meanwhile, the Aksyon Tigil Mina (ATM) said its objection to Atienza's appointment as DENR secretary

"The appointment of a politician with no solid track record in environmental issues further threatens to undermine the DENR as an agency tasked with the preservation and protection of our country's patrimony rights," ATM coordinator Roy Calderon said in a statement.

"This is nothing more than a political accommodation, which is characteristic of how the administration views the utilization of our country's natural resources," he said.

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DFA building up supply of new passports

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA) has begun building up its supply of machine-readable passports (MRPs) in preparation for their eventual issuance to the general public.

Foreign Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs Domingo Lucenario Jr. said the DFA was coordinating with its supplier, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), for the non-intrusive production of the MRPs.

"We are now building up our stock of booklets... As soon as we have enough, we will announce the issuance to the general public," Lucenario said.

Initially, the passports are being issued to government officials, senior citizens and migrant workers.

On Friday, the DFA issued the first batch of machine passports to senior citizens after they were selected to government officials. At least 5,000 booklets were allotted for the limited issuance this month.

MRPs, issued as an interim measure while the government builds on its capability to issue electronic passports by next year, are currently booklets that contain personal data on its data page, doing away with the manual encoding of a traveler's personal information upon check-in at international ports of entry.

The upgraded passports are a step shy of the e-passport, a travel booklet with stalled-and chips which are now widely used worldwide.

The new passports cost P600 just like the old green passports. Sheila Crisostomo

On Sona eve, shaved heads demand peace

By Tonette Orejas, Inquirer General Luzon, and Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

CANDON, ILOCOS SUR—On the eve of the President's State of the Nation Address (Sona), this town's mayor and 33 barangay captains shaved their heads to call attention to their clamor for local government units to be allowed to feed peace initiatives through cash-for-community.

Candido Mayor Jeny Ablan and barangay officials held the head-shaving event two days after President Macapagal-Arroyo officially launched the Human Security Act in Malacañang on Friday.

"We're sending a message to our government. The people are fed up with conflict. We proved in Candido that economic activities, not guns, are the solution to insurgency. I hope our beloved President would give local governments the chance to solve the problem. I hope guns are not used, especially in Mindanao," Ablan told reporters as the Pasig police band played Sunday.

As leaders did their mock, the mayor and the barangay leaders let their shirts do the talking. Their T-shirts bore the messages "Work, not of bullets, not guns!" and "Give peace a chance."

Soccer Sangalang, former president of the Hubbang Magpangatayo ng Bayan (HABI) and now the village chief of barangay Lavodeo, held up a big illustration of a mortar shell.

Some held up streamers saying: "Guns on one hand, bullets on the other" ("The Filipinos are tired of conflict).

No military or police officials were present at the event.

CANDIDO MAYOR Jerry Ablan (center) and barangay captains get their heads shaved for peace. "Bombs, not bullets," read their T-shirts.

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High-tech helpers or surveillance tools?

From page A1

proof key cards and doorsence nodes, the company said.

"In grocery high-end smarter data, you use more sophisticated techniques," Sean Burke, chief executive of the Cincinnati-based company said.

Burke compared chip implants to cosmetic waxes or fingerprinting. "There's a reader outside the door, you walk up to the reader, put your arm under it, and it opens the door."

Unwanted lifestyle

But the news that Americans had, for the first time, been injected with electronic identifiers to purchase their jobs fired up a debate over the proliferation of ever more precise tracking technologies and their ability to erode privacy in the digital age.

To some, the microchip is a wondrous invention—a high-tech helper that can increase security at nuclear plants and military bases, help authorities identify wandering Alzheimer's patients, allow consumers to buy more groceries, literally with the wave of a chipped hand.

Orwellian

To others, however, the notion of tagging people is Orwellian, a departure from centuries of history and tradition in which people had the right to go and do as they pleased without being tracked, unless they are hurting someone else.

Chipping, those critics said, might start with Alzheimer's patients or furry hangers, but would eventually be suggested for couriers, then parolees, then sex offenders, then illegal aliens ... until one day, a majority of Americans, lolling into one category or another, would find themselves electronically tagged.

Thirty years ago, the Swedish state was first to the rear of cattle, to permit ranchers to track a herd's reproductive and resting habits. In the 1990s, millions of chips were implanted in livestock, fish, pets, even racehorses.

Microchips are now used to cut retail shrinks as self-paying devices, on "contactless" payment cards (Chase's "Blink," in Mastercard's "PayWave"). They've embedded in Michelin tires, library books, passports and, unbeknownst to many consumers, on a host of individual items at Wal-Mart and their bins.

But CityWatcher.com employees aren't employees, or pets. They are people, made economic.

Scary

"It was scary that a government contractor first specialized in putting surveillance cameras on city streets was the first to incorporate this technology in the workplace," said Liz Mcintyre, coauthor of "Spychips: How Major Corporations and Government Plan to Track Your Every Move with RFID."

Jacks, the CityWatcher.com executive, said his employees volunteered to be chipped. "You wouldn't think that we were going to send panting chips to people by faxes," he told a reporter, "and that's not the case at all."

Yet, within days of the company's announcement, civil libertarians and Christian conservatives joined to excoriate the notion in unusually passionate terms.

"Ultimately," said Katherine Albrecht, a privacy advocate who specializes in consumer relinquish and RFID technology "the fear is that the government or your employer might someday say, 'Take a chip or leave.'"

Some critics saw the implants as the fulfillment of a biblical prophecy that describes an age of evil in which humans are forced to take the "Mark of the Beast" on their bodies, to buy or sell anything. Others saw it as a big step toward the creation of a Big Brother society.

"We're really on the verge of creating a surveillance society in America, where every movement, every action ... some would even claim, our very thoughts—will be tracked, monitored, recorded and correlated," said Barry Steinhardt, director of the Technology and Liberty Program of the American Civil Liberties Union in Washington.

In design, the tag is simple: A medical-grade glass capsule holds a silicon computer chip, a copper antenna and a "capacitor" that transmits data stored on the chip when prompted by an electromagnetic reader.

Implants are quick, relatively simple procedures. After a local anesthetic is administered, a large-gauge, hypodermic needle injects the chip under the skin on the back of the arm, midway between the elbow and the shoulder.

John Hilandis, an emergency physician at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, got chipped two years ago, "so that if I was ever in an accident, and arrived unconscious or incoherent at an emergency unit, doctors could identify me and access my medical history quickly." If chipped patients' medical profile can be continuously updated, since the information is stored on a database accessed via the Internet.)

But it's also clear to Hilandis that there are consequences to having an implanted identity. "My friends have considered it to be that I'm marked for life, that I've lost my anonymity. And to be honest, I think they're right."

More questions

Indeed, as microchip proponents and detractors readily agree, Americans' embrace of microchips and other technologies, like RFID, is evolving.

Many wonder: Are the current dispersed global positioning constellations that would allow the government to pinpoint a person's exact location, 24/7? (No; the technology doesn't yet exist.)

Too could a tech savvy author rig cameras to video-capture specific actions each time they entered or left the home? (Quite easily, though not cheaply. Currently, readers cost $500 each up.)

What's the average life span of a microchip? (About 10-15 years.) What if you get tired of it before then—can it be easily painlessly removed? (Short answer: No.)

How about thieves? Could they make their own readers, aim them at unsuspecting individuals, and surreptitiously pluck people's IDs out of their arms? (No. There's even a name for it—"spoofing.")

The company that makes implantable microchips for humans, VeriChip Corp., of Delray Beach, Florida, concedes that's a problem—even as it markets its radio tag and its portal scanner as important for high-security buildings, such as nuclear power plants.

"To grab information from radio frequency products with a scanning device is not hard to do," said Scott Silverman, the company's chief executive. However, "the chip itself only contains a unique, 16-digit identification number. The relevant information is stored on a database."

VeriChip Corp., whose parent company has been selling radio tags for animals for more than a decade, has sold 7,000 microchips worldwide, of which about 2,000 have been implanted in humans.

The company's present push—tagging of "high-risk" patients—diabetics and people with heart conditions or Alzheimer's disease.

In an emergency, hospital staff could wave a reader over a patient's arm, get an ID number, and then, via the Internet, enter a company database and pull up the patient's identity and medical history.

To doctors, a "mother lot"—implants with 10 hypodermic syringes, 10 VeriChips and a reader—costs $2,400. To patients, a microchip implant means a $200, out-of-pocket expense to their physician. At present, chip implants aren't covered by insurance companies, Medicare or Medicaid.

For almost two years, the company has been offering hospitals free scanners, but acceptance has been limited. According to the company, U.S. hospitals have pledged to take part in the MedAlert network, but only 100 have actually been equipped and trained to use the system.

Some wonder why hospitals should abandon noninvasive tags, such as MedicAlert, a low-tech bracelet that warns paramedics if patients have serious allergies or a chronic medical condition.

"Having those things under your skin instead of in your back pocket—it's just not clear to me why it's worth the inconvenience," said Hutchens.

Unlike arm bracelet

Silverman explained that an implanted chip was "guaranteed to be with you. It's not a medical arm bracelet that you can just take off if you don't like the way it looks ..."

In fact, microchips can be removed from the body—but it's not like removing a splinter.

The capsules can migrate around the body or burst themselves deep in the arm. When that happens, a sensor X-ray and monitors are needed to locate the chip, and a plastic surgeon must cut away near tissue that forms around the chip.

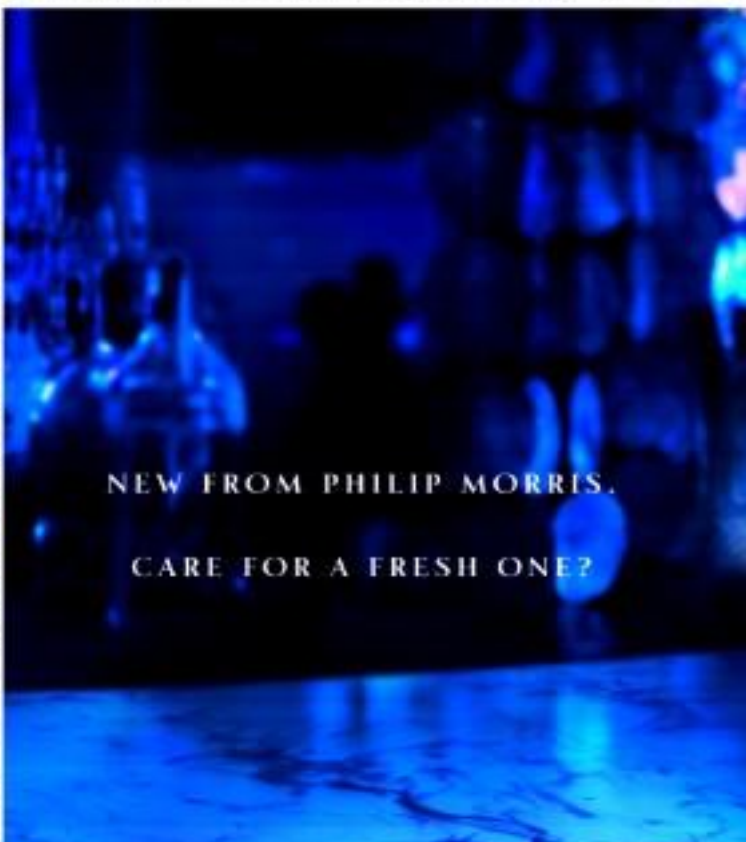
The relative permanence is a big reason that Rhea Steinberg, of the Electronic Privacy Information Center, is suspicious about the motives of the company which charges $200 a year for customers to keep on its database a record of blood type, allergies, medications, driver's license data and living will directive. For $100 a year, it will keep an individual's full medical history. AP

Microchip a

A microchip implant is slide when a hospital's VeriMed Patient ID medical information unconscious or critic

Transmitting medi

Chips in arms is **scanned** with ability if it's used code



Government Warning
is dangerous

Inquirer most-read English daily

From page A1

household income of between P10,000 and P50,000.

Also included in the survey were households in the broad C class, or those earning a monthly household income of between P11,000 and P50,000 and those in the D class, who earn between P6,000 and P11,000 a month. Roughly 31 percent and 40 percent belong to the broad C and D classes, respectively.

The survey did not include households belonging to the E class, or those earning a monthly income of less than P6,000.

Synovate used mixed survey methodologies for the blocks at Jan. 12-21 or computer-assisted telephone interviews, as well as face-to-face interviews were conducted among respondents from the upper and lower classes, respectively.

The survey, conducted from July 2006 to June 2007, covered a total of 2,108 respondents aged 15 to 64. They were asked about their media consumption, ownership of a range of products, lifestyle, income and attitudes. The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

The survey also showed that 16 percent, or nearly 4 million SEIgians in Greater Manila area, said they read daily newspapers. Nineteen percent (3.6 million) said they read English dailies, while 10 percent (2.2 million) said they read Tagalog dailies. Magazine readership, on the other hand, was at 2.1 million or 10 percent of the population.

Virtually all of those surveyed said they watched TV, with 84 percent saying they had watched TV the day before. On the other hand, 79 percent said they had listened to the radio over the previous week.

The survey also found that 10 percent of those surveyed, or more than 2.0 million, had access to the Internet.

Last month, Nielsen Media Research also released nationwide survey results that showed that television is the most viral broadcast device in the country, with an estimated 3.47 million viewers. Manila Bulletin came in second with around 1.27 million readers, while the Philippine Star came in third with an estimated 1.176 million readers. *Jane E. Dalmas, Inquirer Research*

Summit ends with citizens having fewer liberties

From page A1

prison premises for victims of forced disappearance.

A working group in the summit chaired by Supreme Court Associate Justice Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez was through these empty gestures, prompting it to enlighten the media instead in an effort "to be informed of a resolution supporting the Chief Executive to ... order all those connected to stop the extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances."

In line with GMA policy

That the state security organs were ill-disposed to implement such orders from the Commander in Chief was indicated in the fact that four of their representatives dissented with the report.

The dissenters were delegates from the military and the PNP some of whose officers had been tagged by the Melo Commission as responsible for extrajudicial executions mainly of Leftist activists (which never of responsibility).

The Gutierrez group also called on Congress in many cases to define the "command responsibility" of military and police officers for disappearances and killings in every area of operations in the pursuit of an administration campaign to crush the nationwide movement by the end of Mr Arroyo's term in 2010.

It urged that a study be made regarding the immunity of the government from suits in cases of extrajudicial killings and disappearances.

More trustworthy than DOJ

A group chaired by associate justice Antonio Eduardo Nachura recommended giving more prosecution powers to the Commission on Human Rights.

Legal experts at the summit said the CHR was perceived to be "more trustworthy" than the justice department, which has eroded under the Arroyo administration in signalling criminal action against perceived political opponents of the President.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, under severe criticism for alleged repression and of his department's powers to prosecute the President's political detractors, questioned relaxing the CHR's prosecution powers, without a constitutional amendment.

Executive commissioner Leah Armamento of the institute's recommendations did not make things any harder than the President's pledge made in February at the public release of the Melo Commission report.

Cutting edge

Mr Arroyo said then: "I have made it a top priority to resolve the killings of political and ideological activists and of members of the media, and to prevent further killings."

Since then the killings have increased.

In reviewing the statistics, Chief Justice Reynato Puno sought to assure the unjustified jitter that the powers of the Supreme Court under the 1987 Constitution to curb abuse of power by the political departments—the executive and the legislature—by using them as the starting edge to shove aside the judiciary in the exercise of executive power.

Puno has described the 1899 Charter as the most profitless among Philippine Constitutions since 1935.

The political overtone of the Puno's statement set on the spot immediately after he delivered his keynote speech in the summit whereby he said: "By calling this summit, we are affirming our belief in human rights not only in the abstract. We are affirming that before the universal ideal of human rights. There can be no arbitrary, no oppressive, exercise power."

Like 'Big Brother'

Following the speech, a group of nongovernment organizations and legal experts petitioned the Supreme Court to nullify the Human Security Act, and declare it unconstitutional.

In remarks issued by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, lawyers assailed the act as breaching the individual's right to privacy. One of them, the Rev. Fr. Joaquin Bernas, S.J., former dean of the University of the Philippine College of Law, said the act has passed "unprecedented restrictions." He described the act as "Orwellian Big Brother."

He said the law authorizes searches, arrests and electronic and other forms of surveillance of suspected terrorists, allows warrantless arrests and targets individuals who had even the remotest links to suspects.

Another lawyer, Sixto Sagalong, said the law operates on the principle of "guilt by association" and wounds the globe to abuse.

Opposing said the antiterrorists council, which would oversee the implementation of the law, was composed of Ermita, Gonzalez and the National Security Adviser, who would function like Big Brother. "I ask every concerned that this council will be the one wrong but welcome," he said.

Less liberties for all

Civil rights groups have denounced the act for its "vague" definition of terrorism as "sowing and creating widespread and panic-stricken fear and panic among the populace." They said the law allowed authorities to detain people on mere suspicion and was insidious.

The summit ended finding the dichotomy with the liberties than before and more vulnerable to law enforcement agents acting on behalf of a policy that gives priority to preventing the next one the public from occurring.

g: Cigarette smoking
to your health

INQUIRER
OPINION

Arroyo's legacy

EDITORIAL

IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo practices the laundry-list approach to State of the Nation Addresses. While submitting a clear and detailed program of work before Congress is a useful exercise, it is also a constricting one. Nothing in the Constitution, and nothing in our political tradition, prevents the President from presenting a grand vision, an overarching goal that summarizes the best of each of us.

After all, the section in the Constitution that provides for the SONA merely states: "The President shall address the Congress at the opening of its regular session. He may also appear before it at any other time."

But doesn't the continuing crisis of political legitimacy that surrounds President Arroyo's administration severely limit her options, her ability to define the national agenda? No. In fact, it is precisely to the middle of crises that the public, even without necessarily articulating what it wants, most longs for a leader, not a manager.

What we will get today from the President's address, however, will be a manager's bullet points. We have already heard the points, and their presentation, extraordinarily exhaustive in various statistical categories, budget deficit in eight years, 7 million jobs created in the last two years, the progress in the "super regions" in the last year, and so on and so forth.

Aside from these scorecards, however, the most that we can expect from her, in what one unimaginative American politician once dismissively called the "vision thing," will be an attempt to define her legacy in historical terms.

That is unfortunate, because the lesson from history is unambiguous. The legacy leaders leave behind is not entirely within their control, or their choosing.

Presidents Arroyo may want to be remembered for the six years of uninterrupted growth recorded under her watch, or for her valiant effort to join the global war on terror on our own terms. (We can be sure she will discuss the controversial Human Security Act in the context of the outrage in Basilan earlier this month and the all-out military offensive to be launched this week.)

But in fact her legacy will be blighted, for all time, by allegations of election fraud and the spate of political killings.

The President's legitimacy crisis—the cause of her continuing unpopularity, as measured in survey after survey—lies rooted in persistent allegations of election fraud, committed when she ran for the presidency in 2004. In the last month, these allegations resurfaced, because of the ill-advised effort by the administration or its allies to force Juan Miguel Zubiri's victory. That victory came about only through the manipulation of the vote in Maguindanao, the same province alleged to have padded the President's vote totals in 2004.

Zubiri's hollow victory reminded the public, yet again, of the conversations buried on the GenoScope tapes, and the portrait they painted of election fraud.

Everyone knows that the President's legacy in election fraud, however, is her cheering inability, or perhaps it is the lack of desire, to stop the wave of political killings and politically motivated disappearances.

Has the President learned from the damage wrought by the most single passage in her address last year—the singling out, among all military officers, of controversial Justice Pelpuna, for extravagant, indeed undeserved praise? Ms. Arroyo's tribute to the exact-moment-silver-screened political killings came right before (and thus fatally condemned) her condemnation, "to the harshest possible terms," of those same killings.

The deliberately mixed signal managed to send a clear message to the killers and the abductors: You have nothing to worry about. Need we wonder why the killings and the disappearances continue to this day?

This tsunami of political violence has battered the very foundations of our democratic experiment; it has undermined the rule of law itself. That the Supreme Court had to organize a summit on the deadly scourge, in an attempt to search for solutions, is already an indictment of the Arroyo administration.

Any honest attempt to paint the true state of the nation must include the killings and the allegations of election fraud. To do so, however, requires an act of leadership.

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Electricity consumers about to be robbed again

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WHAT DO I TELL YOU? I WROTE HERE about a month ago that power rates would go up again because of the return of the latest Purchased Power Adjustment (PPA). Mirabile dictu, a letter (which I dutifully published here about two weeks ago) refuting the column. Now the prediction has come true. Meralco has just increased power rates by P1 per kWh. A basic (say, P11 per kWh, our power rate is now the highest in Asia.

There's a reason for this. Power rates may rise again if the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) approves an immoral and possibly illegal agreement that would allow Meralco to collect from electricity consumers P68 billion (that's billion, not a mere million) that Power Corp. Team-power, Meralco will make its consumers pay for a P28 billion debt that it acknowledged it owes to Napocor.

The original debt was much higher, but, through haggling, it was reduced to P28 billion. But Meralco still did not pay, so it ballooned to P67 billion. Said it will eventually become P68 billion. It's our only solace from Meralco, it would have more than enough to cover the deficit.

I base this tentative count to cure Napocor on Meralco's own computations.

Meralco has a 19-year contract to buy 3,000 megawatts of power from Napocor for the ensuing 19 years. The Philippine government guaranteed Napocor's Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) contracts with independent power producers to build the power plants to solve the crippling power crisis during the latter part of the Aquino administration and the early years of the Ramos government.

Starting in 2002, however, the Legoo family-controlled Meralco unilaterally abrogated this contract and banned Napocor to power supply under-construction series from a sister company, the Legoo-owned First Gen Corp. and SPC Power Corp. At a single, government-owned Napocor lost billions of pesos on the minimum off-take agreement that it entered into because Meralco refused to purchase its power from it.

Faced with huge losses, Napocor filed a suit against Meralco. However, when media sweeps of the anniversary celebration down, a P28 billion compromise agreement was concluded by Meralco and Napocor. Nothing wrong with that. But under this compromise agreement, Meralco, not penalty for nonpayment of outstanding as P28.01 billion will be charged to the consumers' electricity and immortal!

The unbelievable part is that Meralco violated the contract not to protect the public or serve the public interest but to favor the equity-owned power generation companies under First Gen which operates the 1,000-MW Sta. Rita and San Lorenzo power plants in Batangas and the 440-MW Quezon Power Plant in Mauban, Quezon, which charge higher rates than Napocor.

When Meralco started violating the contract in 2002, the Ramos presidency, then Jose Rono Avelino, hesitated to collect from Meralco. He was an indebted to Meralco for giving his San Jose Power and Donauran a 2.66 MW power supply agreement. Paby, in Ramos's name was threatening to appoint a majority of Meralco's Board of Directors hospital to reduce its 68% participation there from P28 billion and a compromise was finally agreed on.

The compromise agreement was signed on July 25, 2003, in a meeting accepted its obligation to pay Napocor P67 1/2 billion and Napocor accepted a reduction (which? P67 billion).

However—and this takes the cake—a provision was inserted that the net settlement of P28.01 billion would be recovered from Meralco consumers. To get a semblance of legality to the onerous deal, it provided that the "settlement agreement" would be subject to ERC approval.

Today, four years later, the ERC, instead acting on the application of Meralco to increase rates by P1 per kwh (but two steps, either even the ERC is substantive approve a deal that would pass onto consumers P68 billion) that Meralco owes Napocor, and the merged consumers would merely like a nay and no more of late are possibly decide in favor of the consumers, or does it was really planned by the conspirators to have the ERC rule on it. Chamber minister is hinting to Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes' suggestion that the ERC may be your consider making the public pay for Meralco's obligations instead of a contract violation, one that was deliberately made for personal gain.

What is the ERA administration doing to collect this debt? The government is about to lose at least P28 billion, isn't that plausible? A duly elected President has been deposed and is now languishing in detention on a mere plunder charge, has he allegedly taking P728 million from illegal gambling. This is P28 billion more P67 billion, enough to bridge the national government's budget deficit.

But instead of collecting from Meralco, the government is now preparing to let Meralco collect from the consumers. Is this why Meralco has been so generous in contributions to the campaign funds of the administration candidates in the last elections?

Is Meralco beyond reproach? Not by a long shot. Its rates are among the highest in the world. Its service is among the worst. Its employees are among the most arrogant. Its billing is among the most confusing. Its collection is among the most ruthless. Its officials are among the most unresponsive to complaints.

Meralco has been charging consumers for the cost of electricity lost in transmission. Its transmission lines are the most inefficient in the country. Its transformers are the most prone to explode. Its meters are the most inaccurate. Its meter readers are the most careless. Its billing is the most confusing. Its collection is the most ruthless. Its officials are the most unresponsive to complaints.

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State of the nation

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

HERE'S SOMA DELIVERED THE STATE OF THE Nation Address last July, several things have happened. Those things, not necessarily in their order of importance, are:

One, she has become—according to Bishop Lagunzad—the longest-serving president of this country in thirty years. That is, until Marcos' penalties. She will be delivering her seventh State-wing the most since Ferdinand Marcos. She has occupied Malacañang longer than Cory, who birthed People Power; Fidel Ramos, who brought forth democracy; Joseph Estrada, who rose to the presidency on the popular support of the masses; and Joseph Estrada, who rose, the same years among any passionate Philippine president. Every era is only number for the late Marcos. One era only was higher lightning won't strike twice.

Two, Jesus Borgoz disappeared some months ago and remains missing. As far as I know, Borgoz is the first time the killings—I currently hope that I am terribly wrong in include him among the victims—are by enemies of the regime. I only had been watching them in the face of public apology that something like that could happen to the son of a terrified boss, one who had made it to the list of the world's 100 best journalists to commentator one end of the last century, and one who had in fact helped epically to restore life to this country. Still, the unthinkable isn't unthinkable today; it is commonplace today.

Jesus Borgoz has become the fifty million—one living, his spirit, or memory, or name is been left out the—for the wholesale massacre of journalists, and political activists, a monstrosity that remains unshared to this day. Despite the cries of the rest of the victims, despite the heroic-ations of the Supreme Court, despite the International of the civilized world. Jesus Borgoz has become the living reminder of something else that has disappeared in this country: freedom, the minutest misstep, freedom remains missing.

Three, Hubert Jaime is no more dead. Three days A. four months ago, the Melo Commission said the threats flowed across government of having a hand in the killings, directly or indirectly. It focused on Jaime, Gen. Esperon and Gen. Palparan. Jaime is dead. Esperon is Palparan is not. Jaime is dead. Esperon is Palparan is not. Jaime is dead. Esperon is Palparan is not

Command responsibility: How high up?

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

Current jurisprudence tells us it isn't easy to pin criminal liability on a commander who is once or twice removed from the scene of the crime

AT THE RECENT SUMMIT ON EXTRAJUDICIAL killings and kidnappings, one among the many questions raised was whether the President as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces could be made to answer for crimes committed by soldiers. In other words, how far up can command responsibility go? In fact, in Germany several long centuries have shed a criminal complaint against Hitler because he was considered immune from all criminal responsibility as head of state. But in the U.S. military, according to their criminal liability for the treatment of prisoners in the Ghadi. And it is important to realize that, if convicted, the commander receives the punishment for the offenses committed by the subordinates and not by the direct offense of subordinates' omissions or negligence. Thus, General Sanchez was not required to death by hanging for the crimes of the soldiers under his command.

When appeals from current jurisprudence, however, is that if the act or omission constitutes criminal liability on a commander who is once or twice removed from the scene of the crime. That jurisprudence has arisen from the debates over one of the most controversial issues in international responsibility, namely, degree of control over subordinates that the superior must have to be responsible for the crimes the latter has committed. The development on the subject has come mainly from the tribunals of the Yugoslavia and Rwanda, also the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), which was created by the Security Council during the Bosnian conflict, and also the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR).

The debate on mens rea has brought on the question whether the commander must have had actual knowledge of the crimes committed by his subordinates or whether he can be found guilty of crimes of which he had no actual knowledge. Clearly, actual knowledge would suffice to make full responsibility. Mens rea does not necessarily mean actual knowledge. However, a commander may still be held liable if his failure to have knowledge is the result of deliberate evasion. But how characterize the required degree of control? Is it orders, or power, or authority? It is not easy to make these distinctions precisely when the evidence is largely circumstantial. Trial judges, lawyers and commentators have devoted much energy in trying to arrive at appropriate standards of culpability.

The statutes of the ICTY and ICTR have some help in this regard. Article 7(3) of the ICTY Statute refers to those that the subordinate was about to commit or had committed and the superior failed to take the necessary and reasonable measures to prevent such acts or to punish the perpetrators thereof." This article says, however, is the proper interpretation of the phrase "had reason to know." Ultimately the accepted rule is that a commander is liable only if "information was available to him which would have put him on notice of offenses committed by subordinates doing." Liability is because this information differs from situation to situation and the application of the standard will depend largely on circumstantial evidence.

The other controversial element in command responsibility is the requirement of a respective subordinate relationship. The question was on the a "effective control" or "the material ability to prevent and punish the offenses." For this, however, de jure authority is not required, de facto command can suffice. And it also applies to both military and civilian leaders. However, the problem again is evidentiary. Thus, in the ICTY case involving officials of the Celebici prison, two defendants were acquitted of charges under command responsibility for the crimes of the officials. The problem was largely evidentiary. Indeed, in many earlier occasions it may be difficult to prove a defendant's de facto effective control over subordinates. As the Appeals Chamber in the ICTY case said: "In principle, the existence of de jure power to lead may not suffice for the finding of command responsibility if it does not translate in effective control, although a court may presume that possession of such power translates results in effective control unless proof to the contrary is produced." In other words, possession of de jure authority raises presumptive possession of control unless proof to the contrary is produced.

To go back to our original question: Is Hitler the only modern commander immune from responsibility? What the President can do? Chief of Staff provides in their full capacities? It depends on the evidence of mens rea and effective control. When it comes to the development of the doctrine on command responsibility is that what is sought is actual individual culpability.

Why is contraception wrong?

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalban II

FOR SOME, THAT IS A RHETORICAL QUESTION. For others, it is a serious issue. After all, the catechism says that taking direct life cultivated population is in the form of contraception, to the delight of the anti-life advocates. But for most of us, it is not one we are ignorant of.

The economic and moral-social viewpoint is to say that the Philippine population is growing too fast and that it would be in the best interest of the country if we adopted contraception. Yet why is the population growing in the country, he asked? Placing the blame on the Catholic Church for some of its teachings on contraception has had many would have to pick up a fight against the Church which makes for enjoyable festivities.

With the promotion of Family Communities there, I am expressing here concepts that are not new. In fact, I will be citing the teachings of the Catholic Church website. Many give as a simple layperson's perspective of the Catholic position against contraception and which, I am sure, is open much of our ignorance.

Contraception is the practice of artificial means to prevent a marriage from. Contraception has its direct opposition in the natural conception of marriage. The contribution is the difficulty one can have in understanding the position, because one values doesn't understand marriage either. Many do not understand why sex is only for those legally married. But this concern, it is perhaps best to start with when we ought call the marriage moral issues associated with contraception, which appear to all sexual relations.

Artificial contraception suppresses the natural outcome of sexual intercourse, and so in doing it has two main effects and detrimental consequences.

First, it engenders a casual attitude toward sexual relations. As sexual acts, because of the possibility of conceiving a child, makes demands on the couple is engagedly, it cannot conception of no long-term meaning. The natural consummation of a couple implied by the very nature of this intimacy self-giving is also considered cured by the fact that the most obvious (though not necessarily the most important) natural fulfillment of that consummation has been eliminated. This already contributes to the rise of sexual sex, and the rate of casual sex has enormous implications for psychological and emotional well-being, personal and public health, and social cohesion.

Second, it contributes to the separation of sexual activity from fruitfulness in principle. Naturally speaking, the sexual act finds its full meaning in their emotional intimacy and the creation of offspring. For human persons, sex is clearly oriented to more than just the creation of new life. But eliminating the possibility of new life and the primary bonding it demands, contraception reduces the meaning of human sexuality to pleasure and, in fact, a crass and or wounded use of consummation. Moreover, if the meaning of human sexuality is primarily pleasure, then the pleasure obtained can which brings pleasure is of equal value as.

Now all of these evil consequences apply both inside and outside of marriage. Within marriage, however, the evil effects of the practice with contraception gains apart from its instruction contraception. Outside of marriage, sexual activities are already disordered. They have no purpose or ends and so the frustrations of these ends through contraception is intrinsically morally irrelevant. Outside of marriage, sexual activity is to be avoided for its consequences. Consequences surely made worse by the difficulty of psychological, only separating contraception from sexual intercourse only makes it more difficult.

Within the context of marriage, the purposes of sexual intercourse are unitive and procreative for the good of the couple. Contraception, therefore, is a direct violation of the natural purposes of sexual intercourse and, as such, is always gravely wrong. It is a sexual intercourse between a man and a woman who are married to make of your spouse an object of your pleasure, to satisfy your desires, or to engage in sexual relations in a manner or under conditions which contravene collaborators or wrongful.

This is especially complex when sexual acts sometimes find their divine purposes are accomplished, their happiness increased, and their health improved. Contraception is a given evil rather than one that has positive consequences not only within marriage but outside of marriage as well. Both individuals couples and society as a whole will receive unalways happiness by denying themselves from the false promises of contraception, and more, in sexual lies."

Comments to montalban@ateneo.edu.ph

Quackery

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

ONE OF THE GREATEST FLAWS OF THE PHILIPPINES is its use of the term "crisis." There is virtually every president since to do with the State of the Nation Address. This is what President Macapagal-Arroyo will try to do, with today's State, her seventh. Once she overturned, was page subversion, and was supported in the papers. The talk put her way of what. Over the administration's point of view, the President's past addresses have all shown. The year 2000's theme was "Into the Gable," 2001's was "Sail Together Lest and Rise Above," 2002's was "Strengthening Bonds."

The decision to highlight only the positive out of dozens a month-long. By focusing on the President should coming since 2004, the focus of the talk is on the very thing that's kept the President in power—and has kept her opponents out of power. The talk put her way of what. Over the administration's point of view, the President's past addresses have all shown. The year 2000's theme was "Into the Gable," 2001's was "Sail Together Lest and Rise Above," 2002's was "Strengthening Bonds."

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Even if one subscribes to the notion that everything can be reduced to the economic level, the only truth is wrong: a nation building was low 2004 address. Regardless of the decision to the pundits, 2000 was the year of the Estrada impeachment trial, 2001 was the year of the EDSA 2 uprising, 2002 was the year of the Balikatan exercises, 2003 was the year of the Oakwood mutiny, and 2004 was the year of the Hello Garci scandal. Each year was certainly host called those to do address in which the trial ended the scheme for the President to make a "legacy" to enable her to re-build a "legacy" to enable her to re-run in 2010.

By ignoring the period from 2001 to 2004, the opportunity of the past have been totally sidestepped, by focusing on 2004, the administration's economic record can't be judged. The economic record of the past four years is the record of the Arroyo administration, and it is the record of the Arroyo administration that is the record of the Arroyo administration. The economic record of the past four years is the record of the Arroyo administration, and it is the record of the Arroyo administration that is the record of the Arroyo administration.

Manila teachers want out of GSIS

ONE OF THE LESSER KNOWN RELIGIOUS ORDERS in the country is the Daughters of St. Mary of Leuven (DSML). The assemblage is an international congregation founded in 1838 by Mother Elisa Hiemstra in Leuven, southern Belgium. The Sisters who expressed various humanitarian activities in the spirit of their founder include social work, preschool education and care of children. In Quezon City, the sisters run DSML Montessori School, located near the St. Carmel Chapel.

REVEILLE

Rosanna F. Fernandez

Lyn Gonzalez was a special duty for three of the sisters — Sisters Lilybeth B. Smith, Sr. Annette M. Hiemst and Marcella A. Ulvida said she likes Antipo of three young the religious congregations in Bonn in 1881.

When Lyn came to the convent, one of my assistants was a young lady Carmelita Urosa. She took care of entering to visitors and keeping the office presentable at all times. Her youngest child was Marcella but Carmelita never or terminated that she had passed the religious profession. Having lost touch of her, it was indeed upon his call to be part of the enclosure. Reflection for Marcella and as more came again with a devoted colleague from the past.

"We also remember with affection our cousin, Rosalina Pablo, former DSML executive director, on the occasion of her 92nd birthday tomorrow.

* * *

There are about 445,000 public school teachers in the country. On the average, their monthly salary comes up to P8,000. The GSIS collects 12 percent of the amount—about P1,279—each month from each teacher. That's a whopping P5,17,000,000 per month or P6.2 billion annually. There are not enough retirees for it to grow so we take out of the money from the members to avoided in GSIS operations.

Lyn Feliza, I met with some officers of the Manila Public School Teachers Association (MPSTA). The group represents about 13,000 members and they are clamoring for a withdrawal from GSIS and possibly setting up an independent insurance system that would hopefully be more responsive to their needs.

According to MPSTA President Marinela T. Mercado, a teacher in the Makati Elementary School in Guiguinto, "thousands of teachers and government employees continue to lodge their complaints regarding the inefficiency of the system as well as the irregularities committed by some GSIS officials. In the meantime, retirees have worried under GSIS' tradition 'Pension first ka.'"

Some of the grievances against GSIS lead to do with inefficiency in updating members' records, time posting in delayed posting of premium contributions, causing inadequate amounts or non-payment of dividends, non-distribution of loan proceeds on the date promised, and the like. Under the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) which the members believe to be unlawful and insecure as it affects housing loans and retirement benefits. Another complaint under dispute is the existence of an e-Card/Plus.

Speaking of the e-Card system which GSIS has been rolling out to the members as mandatory starting March 2007, GSIS came up with another e-Card, the same called e-Card Plus, with a maximum of a P10,000 cash advance. But when we go to the e-Card to e-Card Plus, if there are no funds deposited in the individual's account? As Dr. Jesusa Simon of Congressional Villages noted one recently, her use of an updated e-Card was of no use since there was no funds for her.

By the way, I wonder if any GSIS official ever bothered to look into her complaints. She said in her letter that repeated phone calls to GSIS did not move the concerns of a reply. Let us hope, however, this issue is now was taken this we are sure that GSIS officials will look into the complaints on their letter complaints. It would be better enlighten the public.

As for the problem in updating and maintaining members' records, it is not just the GSIS that is in fault. The lax system of education must also share part of the blame. For their money, our government bureaucracy has always been notorious for its lack of record keeping. As a result, agencies, it is the poor teacher to ensure who suffers from these inefficiencies.

In fashioning some kind of solution, compromises have to be made. One cannot remain rigid in the implementation of policies especially when it affects the livelihood of the very people whom that system was established for.

Going back to the idea for a new pension plan, a group spearheaded a nationwide move among public school teachers to ask Congress for relief from the mismanagement of GSIS. Public school teachers make up 40 percent of GSIS members and they certainly have a right to be heard and attended to when their complaints are not addressed or resolved within a reasonable time. Indeed, the issue of government employees and can does not simply ignore their cries when difficulties arise.

Tomorrow, the board of MPSTA will meet with Undersecretary Franklin Drilon of the Department of Education to once again to air their grievances and seek support for their activities. It is only fitting that the group's leaders be given more effective children and to it is important that some resolution is arrived at that will take into account the position of both the teachers and government. It cannot be a one-sided affair with you a few people (usually) dictating policy.

Perhaps it is time for Congress to take another look at GSIS. It's for pension managers unable to answer for complaints coming from the members and other government employees, insure and ensured, there must be something fundamentally wrong with the system which Winston Garcia's five-year tenure has not been able to correct. There are some good officials in the GSIS but the system and some of its top servers, as noted by the complaints by the pensioners. One thing is certain: the GSIS cannot justify its existence in the face of so many complaints and grievances against the organization.

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

Balangiga means Fil-Am war not over

THE 104TH ANNIVERSARY OF the Balangiga Encounter will be commemorated on Sept. 28, 2007. Unfortunately, not one of the two bells displayed in a military camp in Wyoming, USA has been returned to the belfry of the Catbalo church, to Balangiga, Eastern Samar.

As a soldier and an builder of the Balangiga Monument, I feel to believe a real lesson boil or the monument's belfry. Pointer Sky, Shoreline Lifeman of Eastern Samar, now the immigration commissioner, was responsible for making the monument a reality.

During President Fidel Ramos' term, the belfry of the church was refurbished in welcome the return of one of the bells which had been carried away by American soldiers as war booty. The monument on Sept. 28, 1901 had claimed the lives of 50 American soldiers and 28 Filipino freedom fighters.

The world is aware that the original Bells of Quiroz Federal, which, used to be housed in a Bells museum, has long been returned to the Cuiro National Museum.

I hope that Ambassador Kristie Kenney the United American are humanist, would lend a helping hand in the eventual return of even one of the two bells.

Sad and strange as it may seem, some elderly Filipinos feel that the Filipino-Americans and of 1946-1991 has not really been brought to a final conclusion, all because of the missing bells.

—NAPOLEON "BILLY" VELASCO-ARISTA
National Artist for Sculpture,
Tierra Nordic Homes, Cubao, QC

Let's run after Basilan savages

THE ABU SAYYAF GROUP beheading of hostages in Basilan last July 13 were not demandable by both Christians and Muslim mankinds. Those were treacherous and barbaric acts.

It is time that, in the past, this savages of our Armed Forces is running after the perpetrators of such crimes would waste after some times; but in this case, we have been so accommodating with the captors from the start.

It's time that we lived up to "Pagsibatan Ay Isipin" and "Isang Bala Isang Buto."

Let's be proactive, commissioner.

—ALFONSO GM ROXAS,
1104-B Ubitos, Barangay Cubao

Cockfighting part of culture; it is useful, helps people

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE National Shrine "Mons. de Rosas, de dos Rosas de" Church in metro now true to the Philippines, we must do what foreigners tell us to do? Do ordering to Mexican wrestler's lover or cockfighting in the Philippines?

First of all, cockfighting is very much different from all other forms of animal fighting. The cocks fighted here are scientifically propagated just to fight. That's why they're called "fighting cocks." There's no such thing as a "fighting horse" or even a "fighting dog." On the other hand, there's so much thing as a "race cock."

On the issue of the cocks going "extinct," as the host of the TV show "Sabong" said at one who has visited several breeding farms for fighting cocks, I can personally assure which that this is not going to happen. The number of "fighting cock" eggs being hatched every day is a thousand times higher than the number of fighting cocks dying in the cockpits every day. Fighting cocks will become extinct only if we stop the game of cockfighting, since this will force the breeders to also stop breeding fighting cocks.

I have cockfighting personal against hostages, in fact, I love them and I think them very much for helping our country in many other wonderful ways. I just want something that is part of our culture, like cockfighting, which dates back to old centuries' era, even before the Spanish conquistadores landed on our shores, be preserved.

The animal welfare groups lobbying for a ban on cockfighting [illegible] to remember your position and understand that fighting cocks are bred for the game and can never whatever the reason be released or even set free in the cockpit, they are simply leaving the state of their lives, it's their destiny to be chicken.

Instead of preaching about the issues, think of the people who depend on this industry. There are thousands of them, I mean those who depend on it for their livelihood, not the irresponsible gamblers who are the "minnow" of the sport.

Cockfighting also helps in raising government revenues. And groups of cockfighting advocates, under the umbrella organization the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders, are also engaged in many livelihood programs in different parts of the country and provide funds for relief operations during calamities.

This should be enough proof that cockfighting is a useful industry that is not just productive but also helps people and saves human lives, and is therefore not for bullies.

—MONE GARCIA,
IT Man and game-fowl specialist

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A 'magic carpet' ride to the 'Castle in the Sky'

THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO will again take the Filipino people for a "magic carpet" ride today, July 23, when she delivers her fourth-to-last seventh State of the Nation Address.

Last year, she took the Filipino people for a magical ride to her Enchanted Kingdom of "super regions." Today we never hear ourselves talk Arroyo again using her "super region", still living us in a place grander than the Enchanted Kingdom—the Castle in the Sky.

I am referring to Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye's statement on Mr. Arroyo's "vision" and the steps she would take to carve the country closer to the attainment of that vision, which is making the Philippines a First World country.

If we break the elements of this vision, we can see all the fantasy-themes that the government, particularly Mr. Arroyo, has been falsely propagating: the tutoring point, low inflation, low budget deficits, low interest rates, a robust stock market, rapid inflow of foreign investments, tripling of investments in economic zones and priority sectors, creation of almost six million new jobs in the last six years, and low unemployment and poverty rates.

The reality is we are already seeing the kind of vision—like a rainbow, it has a complete cast of characters, a plot line, scenes, exercise-like aspects, etc.

In her last State, Mr. Arroyo has been applying to her speeches my "Symbiotic Convergence Theory," a web-developed theory by friend Hermenio, John Gegan and Donald Dalida. The theory imagines that every person's "image of reality is guided by the many underlying basic things we believed to be." This theory capitalizes on human themes in persuading a person or the public to believe a story.

On the other hand, the use of fantasy themes can also be an effective social bonding agent; because, if shared among the people, it can create a sense of commonness.

The problem with the unfolding drama under the main characters are liars and loony, the plot line and scenes are unclear and boring, and the unfolding scenes are already exploited.

Would we, the Filipino people, again allow ourselves to be taken for a "magic carpet" ride? It's up to us.

—ROBERT C. MCBRIDE,
media human,
President Emeritus (without PRWL),
bobby1111@yahoo.com

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Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Bengcila

Tribal folk block mining firm's entry

BAMBANG, NUEVA VIZCAYA—MEMBERS OF tribal communities in three upland villages in Kasibu town on Saturday set up barricades to prevent the entry of equipment and building materials that would be used for an Australian mining firm's exploration activities in the area.

Some 80 villagers, composed of local officials and residents, blocked the road leading to a mine site in Barangay Pao and vowed to stop the operations of Oriana Philippines Inc.

The put more to those proof they intend to resist villages is not acceptable to our people, contrary to what the company and some quarters in the government are claiming," Mariano Marbella, village chief of Pao, said.

Since July 12, groups of 25 men have been holding shifts to guarding the road leading to the site in Pao, which is part of a 1,819-hectare area covered by an exploration permit granted to Oriana.

The site, which straddles the Mamparang mountain range, is within an ancestral land applied for by the Bugkalot of eastern Nueva Vizcaya.

"They can not force against us, but we will stand our ground," said Bambilin, a Bugkalot.

Intimidation

Intimidation from the Ifugao Indigenous Peoples Center Inc., a non-government organization, said the group was angry over the attempted entry of the company's drilling equipment and building materials into the area, despite resistance from the community.

The villagers from Barangays Dax, Pacpac and Kakidugan have been questioning the authenticity of the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) certification, which the company used to obtaining a permit from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

They said the FPIC was "fraudulently issued" by "forged" tribal members.

The FPIC certification showed that 34 of the signatories were entitled to P4,000 monthly as Oriana's "liaison officers" while 19 others were to get P3,000 a month.

MGB records showed that Oriana's permit required on Saturday, ending the four-month extension from March 17, 2007, the original expiry date.

The Supreme used his failed to correct Oriana officials for comment.

Ret. Jurymel Mangaoang, MGB director for Cagayan Valley, said he had granted a 30-month extension of the company's permit.

He said the number of villagers barricading was "negligible" and that Oriana's FPIC was valid and granted by indigenous peoples in the area.

Silas, the people manning the barricades are not from the of Kakidugan. He say that the FPIC was fraudulently given and that to the indigenous groups that gave that consent," he said. Aldrin Cancio, inquirer Northern Luzon

Palawan moves to secure stake in offshore oil, gas fields

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—THE PROVincial government is working to ensure to make in the development of offshore oil and natural gas fields being discovered, recently in its surroundings, by delaying its endorsement of further drilling operations, said by attempting to legislate its position on mandatory revenue the energy-rich track to administrative territory.

Those were moves came out as the province's policy thrust during the provincial board's session on Tuesday when Department of Energy officials presented the status of oil and gas service contracts around Palawan.

DOE officials and seismic surveys conducted in waters of the existing service contracts around Palawan had yielded promising results.

some already proven to be viable for commercial exploration.

"Some marginal fields were seen more economically viable due to present high crude oil prices," Ismael de Ocampo, chief of DoE's petroleum resources development division, told the provincial board.

But local officials expressed concern that with the current stand of the national government to refrain to encourage Palawan's participation over the Malampaya gas field, future oil and gas discoveries in Palawan's will not benefit the province and its constituents.

The Supreme court has yet to rule on a pending case filed by the national government which seeks to exclude Palawan as a direct claimant of 40 percent of the Malampaya gas royalties based on the local government code's provisions on natural resources sharing with local governments.

The provincial experts to earn over $1 billion from Malampaya.

Provincial officials have stepped short of asking they will budge on lasting the mandatory clearance to drilling operations for the two contracts that were in advanced stages of development, which is a requirement for the issuance of an environmental compliance certificate, unless the government of Palawan is recognized as in concert.

But they wanted the Department of Energy and the national government to make formal project presentations of oil drilling plans before any EIC endorsement was even considered by the province.

"We want to make sure that they will come back and make the necessary presentations of their projects," Board Member Erwene Rodriguez said.

Gov. Gov. David Peter de Leon also said the board would take up a proposal to liquidate the provincial waters as boundary with the intention of legally strengthening its territorial jurisdiction over the gas fields.

Dr. Jose Antonio Gamara, a geologist and consultant of the province in maritime affairs, told local officials that, without legislation, the province does not have rights over the oil and gas fields.

He said the government was set to plot these territories to define the coastal boundaries to exclude them.

"If in 2008 before the Philippines have submit its 200 boundaries to the UN, all our waters will fall to be inside the EEC Palawan will lose its title," Dr. Gamara said. Redemption Anda, Inquirer Southern Luzon

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CBCP appeal to abductors: Free 2 Iloilo activists

MILITANT groups and family members of Nilo Arado and Ma. Luisa Pena Chevinando hold a protest rally in Iloilo City during the 100th days of their disappearance on Saturday

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—CATHOLIC BISHOPS Conference of the Philippines president and Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo has joined calls for the release of two Iloilo activists who were abducted 101 days ago.

In a statement released on Saturday marking the 100th day since Ma. Luisa Pena Chevinando and Nilo Arado were taken by unidentified armed men in Cavite town in Iloilo, Lagdameo called on their captors to release them unharmed.

"We are very much aware of the great pain and anxiety this has brought to their respective families and friends. With them and in their behalf, we are appealing to their captors that they be allowed to return to their families, other and sweet," said Lagdameo.

"Thank are of mercy and compassion will help bring at least some peace to our society."

Lagdameo had earlier called for the release of missing activist Jonas Burgos, who was also forcibly taken allegedly by military agents in Quezon City. Military officials have repeatedly denied involvement in the abduction.

Iloilo Bishop Jose Corazon Tala-oc, head governance unit in Iloilo, including the provincial board and four municipal councils, have issued separate resolutions condemning the April 12 abduction and called for the safe release of the two victims.

Former political detainees who fought the Marcos regime protested today in the streets again and joined a rally to mark the 100th day of abduction of the victims.

The protesters were mostly members of the Nilo Ma. Luisa Pena Chevinando and Nilo Arado Movements and the Samahang ng mga Ex-Detainees Laban sa Detensyon at para sa Amnestiya (Selda), which counts activists who were jailed and tortured during the Marcos regime.

Chevinando, who was among the longest jailed detainees in Western Visayas during the Marcos regime, was the spokesperson of the group in Pulang Araw, the area unilateral.

Arado, the chairperson of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) in Panay and national council member of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, and Gresham, public information officer of the human rights group Karapatan in Panay, were on their way home to Iloilo City from Antique on April 12 on board a pick-up when they were waylaid by armed men at around 9:30 p.m. in Dao.

The former detainees, mostly in their 50s, perform a street play to dramatize the unsolved abductions and killing of activists.

"What is happening is worse in some respects to martial law," Selda board member Ferryanne Pelaez said.

"Laisa went underground, was detained and escaped several times from prison camps and was heavily tortured during martial law, she survived, but under this administration, we are losing hope that we will see her again," he said.

He said he feared that the abductions and killings would continue with the implementation of the Human Security Act, which took effect on July 15.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CODE
10
Celebrating Creativity

In today's knowledge-based economy, fostering creativity and innovation is critical to economic growth and progress.

Ten years ago, the Intellectual Property Code established an intellectual property system to encourage creativity, facilitate transfer of technology, and attract foreign investments. Equally important is that IP system's role in promoting the diffusion of knowledge and technology for national development.

With the leadership of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IP Philippines) has developed a strong and dynamic IP system, making IP a strategic tool for the scientific community, businesses, and the creative industries.

Since 2005, government law enforcement agencies have seized close to P4 billion-worth of counterfeit goods in the market. Fake products threaten public health and safety, compete unfairly with legitimate businesses, cheat government of taxes, and undermine investor confidence in the economy.

Confidence in the Philippine economy is reflected in the rise of patent and trademark registrations. Patent registrations measure the country's level of technological capacity. Close to 5,000 patents have been granted since 2001 from over 100 countries of origin in the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, mechanical engineering and computer technology fields. Patent applications have increased significantly by almost 10 percent in the last two years. Projected annual growth rate for patent applications is at 30 percent.

Trademark, a powerful asset for branding strategies, zoomed more than 84,000 applications from 110 countries of origin from 2000 to 2007. Significantly, majority of these trademark are Filipino owned. Indicating an emerging entrepreneurial class. For the past two years, trademark registrations experience a growth rate of 40 percent. Projected annual growth rate for trademark registration is at 70 percent.

The growth trend for patent and trademark is due to the overall positive economic climate in the country for the past years.

IP owners now experience faster and better services from IP Philippines. It has streamlined procedures, adopted fully automated systems and online services such as trademark registration and patent information databases, and set up customer service desks.

As a result, turnaround time for trademark applications has been reduced by 75 percent. For patent registrations, processing time for an application has been cut by half. The period to resolve administrative cases on IP disputes has likewise been reduced by 50 percent. Backlog of applications for trademarks has been eliminated, while those of patents and administrative cases decreased considerably.

IP owners are also more responsive to the IP system due to the public outreach programs of IP Philippines. Artists, the owners of the economy's creative industries, have a strategic partner in IP Philippines. They are now aware of their intellectual property rights through basic orientation seminars and other information dissemination activities. Inventors and scientists from universities, research and development institutions have also realized the commercial value of their work. Through workshops and conferences across the country, IP Philippines has reached out to these important owners for innovation. In the IP Philippines building, filipino scientists, entrepreneurs and artists can showcase their works at the Innovation Area and the Main Art Space.

This is how IP Philippines fosters a creative and competitive Philippines that uses intellectual property for national development. This is the legacy of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to the Filipinos.

"Protecting and promoting intellectual property rights is a strategic and critical component to the country's socio-economic development and the government's effort to raise the level of competitiveness of Philippine businesses."

— President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

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New voters lured with mall treats

A JEEP is packed with youngsters on their way to Davao City to beat the deadline of registration for the barangay and youth elections.

LUZON CITY—PERSONABLE YOUNG men reared to apply local state money during the week-long registration of new barangay Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) voters in this city.

Most of the young registrants had been provided with free transportation fares from their villages to the City hall annex building outside the city the business hotspot.

The donors, according to some of the youngsters interviewed by the Inquirer, were the parents and financial backers of would-be candidates in the SK election in October.

"My councilor at the village hall in the morning. They listed our names in a notebook and gave us P150 for our transportation fare. They just asked us to vote for them and other still-to-be-SK chair," one of the new registrants said, who confided it anonymity.

A group of youngsters from another village said lunch and meals from fastfood outlets were also promised while they were waiting for their turn to register.

Hundreds more, and some in taxis packs were distributed to members of the gang who were standing in line about 15 meters away from the registration counter.

One of them whispered that the guy was an SK village councilor and planning to run re-elect in the coming election.

When the young officials noticed that this reporter was watching him, he immediately left.

Some youngsters from other villages revealed that they were promised by prospective SK candidates to be treated to a movie and "pizza" time after the registration.

"They should really treat us. This small-panel registration is really punishing. Some of us even stayed here overnight just to grab the first number the next morning," said Jhonny Mendoza, 16, while sipping a cup of hot coffee from the canteen they plugged in one of the wall outlets of the building.

The registration period has both SK and barangay elections slated on July 15 and ended yesterday.

Eligible aged 15 to below 18 years may register for the SK elections. Those 18 years old and above may register for the village elections.

For the past week, throngs of new registrants had been seen scattered on the corridors and parking lots of the City Hall compound while waiting for their turn.

A jeepful could some of the registrants from the rural areas even brought mats and dogs there.

Atty. Dalisay Jimenez, assistant to the local Commission on Elections officer, said the long line of registrants no longer surprised her.

"It's the proverbial Pinoy mentality, always tired of waiting for the last hour," she said.

She complained that with only one biometrics machine, they could barely finish the registration of at least 200 new voters after a day-long operation that starts from 8 a.m. up 10 p.m.

It was learned that most of the older registrants were also transported and fed by barangay politicians.

"We are hiring personnel again by our village officials because of the coming barangay election. After our registration, house of friends and fun shows await us in our village," some said, laughing.

Fr. Irving Corrales of the national Comelec said they would investigate the surge in the number of registrants for barangay and SK polls.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos announced that the poll body would extend the logistical trip period for SK voters. —Delfin Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

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May this clarify our position.
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Drugstores Association of the Philippines

Not even a gate pass for Trillanes at Sona

From page A1

of the Nation Address by President Macapagal-Arroyo, Senator Sonny Trillanes IV seems destined to spend the day in his detention quarters at Fort Bonifacio.

His lawyer, Reynaldo Robles, yesterday said the senator's petition to a Makati court to allow him to attend the Sona had remained unacted upon.

Trillanes, charged with coup d'etat, claimed he was unduly being singled out by the government, which has allowed high-profile political figures facing similar nonbailable cases—former President Joseph Estrada and Senator Gen. Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada, Senator Gen. Ret. Rodolfo Biazon, Senator Juan Ponce Enrile and Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago—to get out of jail on several occasions.

In a statement, Trillanes said what he was seeking was merely an "arrangement" with the Makati Regional Trial Court that would allow him to fulfill his duties as senator while under detention.

"If I were seeking a special privilege or special treatment, I could have just as easily sought that I be placed under the custody of the Senate or under house arrest ... because of my having been elected ... but I did not," he said.

Attendance by Trillanes at today's joint session of Congress would put him in the presence of the women he has accused of electing to the 2004 presidential election.

Trillanes, who led renegade Magdalo soldiers in a failed mutiny in 2003, accused the Department of Justice of employing a "double standard" by blocking his appeal for bail while endorsing Estrada's and Ejercito's acclamatory bonds out of their cells.

Trillanes noted that Biazon, who is charged with leading a failed rebellion, was allowed to campaign in Mindanao during the May elections and even authorized to go out of the country on an official mission.

He also cited the case of Estrada, who is detained on plunder charges and yet is allowed to host his son Jinggoy in Tanay, Rizal, to attend social events, such as his mother's birthday and his son's wedding.

"That is a double standard," said Trillanes, who placed 11th in the May 14 polls despite campaigning from jail.

Sen. Manuel Roxas II has called on Malacañang to drop its opposition to Trillanes' attendance at the Senate.

"Any allowance in finding political haven (and national) reconciliation in the President's State of the Nation Address will have no meaning in the context of the senator's empty chair," Roxas said.

Robles said Trillanes filed the petition with the court of Judge Oscar Pimentel last month and it was opposed by the justice department.

"It's highly unlikely that he will be able to go, unless the Makati court's name an order early to the morning allowing him to do so," Robles said.

He said Trillanes' presence at the Sona was one of the things he sought in his unwritten motion, in which he asked for an all-encompassing leave to attend official Senate functions. With reports from Michaela Papa and Ed Top

Antiterror law top issue in GMA Sona

From page A1

and synthesis of the reports and plans she remembered in previous Sonas," Claudio said.

This included Ms Arroyo "abandoning the seeds that was going on in various super regions and states," he said.

The development and infrastructure programs, he said, "are all in place and ongoing, and pursued with passion and determination."

"It gives a very convincing picture of why the Philippines is a very marketable place to do business for local businessmen and investors abroad," Claudio said.

He ordered Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye's earliest statement that Ms Arroyo would be submitting a "report card" to the nation.

Last week, Bunye said Ms Arroyo scheduled her speech to the Cabinet and that she made a good accounting of the government programs she spelled out in her Sona last year.

He said the "targets had been substantially met."

Bunye yesterday said that the Arroyo would outline her plans for the last three years of her administration.

"For the next three years, President Arroyo intends to lead us on a path of economic growth, political stability and social justice. One can be certain that among her priorities during the closing days during this period would be to ensure that more and more of our people will see just say, but more importantly experience, the tangible benefits of our growing economy," he said.

Ecumenist Bishop Efraim Tendero said he is impressed in the President's interest to combat poverty, invest in vital infrastructure, and interest in peace and unities," Bunye said.

Positive speech

It would be a "positive speech for the country," Gonzalez said of the President's Sona.

"It's the way she portrays what can happen to the country," the justice secretary said.

The version of the Sona that Bunye would deliver would highlight the high investments in 2007, the doubling budget allocation for social services, and poverty-alleviating efforts.

Last night, protesters from Southern Tagalog and Central Luzon were to hold a vigil in front of Iver Compound still on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City, where militants from Bayan and other groups would converge today and hold a program from noon to 6 p.m.

At 9 a.m. today, other protesters would march from Tandang Sora and Commonwealth avenues, and converge on Iver Avenue, where Bayan chair Carlos Zarate will deliver the "Sona ng Bayan" at noon.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) and the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) said they would call for the repeal of the RSA, the proposed extension of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) and the resignation of Ms Arroyo.

In Negros Occidental, the National Federation of Sugar Workers, ANP and Anakpawis said they would stage a rally at the Bacolod City public plaza.

Members of Bayan, Gabriela, League of Filipino Students, Anakbayan, urban poor groups and personnel groups have reinforced Bayan would join the rally.

Foreign artists, filmmakers

Some 50 foreign artists, filmmakers and students are joining the rallies in Quezon City that will highlight the dangers of the anti-terror law and political killings where the President delivers her Sona.

After a three-week long exposure to communities, delegates from the United States, Canada, Belgium, Burma (Myanmar) and South Korea will be marching alongside members of Bayan.

"We will show our solidarity with the Filipinos here every though we come from different countries," Filipino-American Ernesto Reyes of Bayan-USA said, insisting that the anti-terror law would "unleash horror" on the rights of Filipinos who challenge the government.

In a protests of their show today, the delegates, mostly street artists, filmmakers, musicians, rappers, teachers and university students, united themselves by wearing white face paint.

Bayan and allied groups invited the delegates who are mostly members of progressive groups in their countries.

The delegates had just come back from extensive exposure to communities, schools and factories in Luzon to document "realities" affecting the people, such as poverty, unemployment and human rights abuses.

"It could help our cause if they return to their country, and amplify their observations about the human rights violations," Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes said.

Reyes said other groups in general in the ranks of the Communist Party of the Philippines expect stepped up surveillance by the military in their identities for their eventual prosecution as terrorists under the anti-terror law.

Glaz effigy

The militants are unveiling at today's march and rally a giant effigy of the President that portrays her as a "monster."

Jose Luis "E" Burgos, younger brother of missing activist Jonas Burgos, and families of victims of "enforced disappearances" are joining today's rally. "We want to show that their lives are in harm's ways under this administration," he said.

In Baguio City lawyer Harry Roque said he and other groups opposing the implementation of the RSA were ready to be arrested during a protest rally tomorrow.

"Go ahead, let the government use the RSA to arrest us or there can be a controversial case that may lead the Supreme Court to decide on the (RSA) law," he told reporters on Friday.

Roque, director of the International Legal Studies of the University of the Philippines Law Center, was a guest speaker at a forum at the Mid.

He said the government, despite the passage and implementation of the law, had failed to give a clear definition of "terrorism."

"If the government is going to insist to us on the day of the protest action, I hope we would be classified as terrorists so the Supreme Court could decide on who the real terrorists are," he said. With reports from Jeannette Andrade, Jaymee Anne P. Gamil, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Estrella Torres, Inquirer Central Luzon; Ronnie Carlota, Inquirer Northern Luzon; and Carla P. Gloria, Inquirer Visayas

The Road to Progress

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Step 7:
Get more partners involved, keep working, and stay on course! Under the flagship theme, "Isla de Vida", the Hundred Islands and Alaminos City will soon become a place Filipinos can be proud of once more.

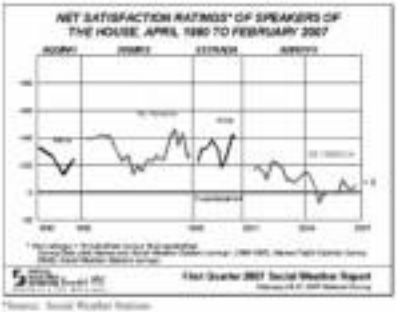
If you'd like to find out more about Alaminos City and the Hundred Islands National Park, visit: www.alaminoscity.gov.ph

In choosing the next House Speaker

THESE ARE THE NUMBERS THAT REALLY MATTER

1. Rock-bottom public satisfaction ratings

Under Speaker Jose De Venecia, the leadership of the House of Representatives suffered the lowest public approval ratings in its history.



*Source: Social Weather Stations

2. The lowest number of bills passed since the 8th Congress

The 13th Congress had the least number of bills of national importance passed since the 8th Congress, a mere eight percent (8%) of the latter's output.

Declining Efficiency of the Philippine Congress, 1987-2007

Congress	Bills Passed	Vetoed	Enacted	% of Bills Filed to Bills Passed
8th	1059	59	1000	5%
9th	571	37	534	3%
10th	590	37	553	9%
11th	415	20	415	5%
12th	375	0	375	5%
13th (as of 15 April 2007)	84	0	84	1%

*Source: Prof. Noel Morada, Chairman, Political Science Department, University of the Philippines

3. Unjustifiably high cost of legislation

Because of inefficiency, absenteeism and lack of leadership, it cost the people almost P150 million to have a single bill passed under the 13th Congress, with De Venecia as Speaker.

Costly Work of Congress

Congress	Session Years	Bills Enacted	Congress Budget	Budget/ Bills Passed (Cost in Pesos)
1st	1946-1949	428	P13.106 million	P15,294.87
8th	1987-1992	1,000	P4.498 billion	P4.498 million
9th	1992-1995	534	P4.634 billion	P8.678 million
10th	1995-1998	655	P6.053 billion	P10.566 million
11th	1998-2001	415	P8.876 billion	P21.399 million
12th	2001-2004	375	P31.231 billion	P64.921 million
13th	2004-31 March 2007	84	P12.511 billion	P148.943 million

*Source: Prof. Noel Morada, Chairman, Political Science Department, University of the Philippines

4. Billions in House funds "not subject to public scrutiny"

The House's budget of P3.4 billion has so far escaped public scrutiny, and even the examination of the members of the House.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

For general administration and support, and operations, including locally-funded projects, as indicated hereunder... P 3,439,250,000

*Source: General Appropriations Act

The worst case of absenteeism in recent history

The Speaker claims he has the numbers. But as the 13th Congress closed, he could not even muster the numbers to pass bills of paramount national importance such as the Cheaper Medicines Act, the new UP Charter and the bill granting compensation to victims of human rights abuses.

DE VENECIA HAS THE NUMBERS, AND THEY ARE NOT FLATTERING.

CHAMBER CHANGE, NOT CHARTER CHANGE!

Sona 2006: Some promises were not kept

from page A1

While the threat to her rule lingered like the odor of incendiaries inside a room with no ventilation, Ms Arroyo was sure there won't be another close shave as long as Supervin, who was dragged into a vote-rigging scandal in the 2004 presidential election, was there.

She carried this guarantee in her Sona appointment on July 24, 2006, in the House of Representatives.

On the same day, Ms Arroyo's politicians sent out a press release with the header: President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo proclamation affirmed.

It announced that Sen. Loren Legarda, who ran for vice president and won there pursuing an election fraud case against Vice President Noli de Castro, had withdrawn a protest questioning the results of the 2004 elections in several Mindanao areas involving 330,000 votes.

This, and results of a recount of votes in Cotabato, "affirmed the proclamation of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as the duly elected President of the Philippines in the May 2004 elections," said the office of the Press Secretary's release, quoting election lawyer Romeo Macalintal.

It ended with these confidence boosters. Ms Arroyo went on to list down her priorities in her 2006 Sona.

"My will embraces the competitive advantage of the natural super regions of the Philippines," she said.

Super regions

Four of these super regions were defined by physical boundaries—the North Luzon Agri-Industrial Quadrangle (NLAIQ), the Metro Luzon Urban Beltway (MLUB), Central Philippines and Mindanao.

The fifth one, which appears to be closest to her heart, is a region without physical boundaries but would span the entire length of the Philippine archipelago through IT—Cyber Corridor.

In a bid to boost the economy in the next decade one of her candidacies, Ms Arroyo said the results of her administration's projects in these super regions were to be the main focus of her Sona today.

"My most effective goal [Sona] Sona hour my technocratic ones, not necessarily others [try] to be eloquent for the ages," she said in her instructions forwarded to the bureaus. "It's more productive to pick up from where I left the 2006 Sona, that is, the theme of the super regions."

Irrigation, roads, storage plants

In its today's Sona, Ms Arroyo would list down 614 communal and commercial irrigation systems that have been put back in work; and 147 kilometers of farm-to-market roads that were built for the NLAIQ.

A packaging and cold storage plant for eggmakes in 75-percent complete in La Trinidad, Benguet.

For the Metro Luzon Urban Beltway, Ms Arroyo would announce the completion of Container Terminal 1 of the Subic Bay Port Development and a passenger terminal at the Clarkie Port.

The P20-billion, 93.73-km Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX)—a component of the MLUB—would be operational although it has no toll delays caused by right-of-way issues.

Iloilo International Airport

For Central Philippines, Ms Arroyo would boast of the completion of the Iloilo International Airport to the towns of Catarman and Sta. Barbara, and the inauguration on May 9 of the Legazpi port in Bicol.

For Mindanao, however, the administration's awards for progress to be proud of but in two projects that have yet to be either completed or started.

These are the Port of Cagayan de Oro that is being "upgraded and rehabilitated," and an 88.4km road that would traverse Maguindanao and Sultan Kudarat but has yet to start construction.

Cyber Corridor

For fifth super region, the Cyber Corridor, is the most ambitious and, according to sources of meetings she held about it, could be the closest to her heart.

"What is the timetable for connecting the barangays as boats to the Cyber Corridor?" Ms Arroyo asked at 6 Nov. 21, 2006, meeting of the Iloilo-Caticlan-Cebu-Cagayan de Oro and other she mentioned Cyber Corridor as one of her super regions in her Sona.

"Let us focus on our strategic objectives ... In other words, how many public high schools do we have and how many are connected especially in the Cyber Corridor?"

She already knows the limits of the word-fist.

Told at the Cabinet meeting that new Internet technology was needed for the government to carry out projects for the Cyber Corridor, Ms Arroyo said: "We are not trying to be like Korea and Japan. Is that necessary, now? [Or] is this, maybe, India (when it comes to IT)."

Loans to SMEs, Airports

A source involved in the preparations of this year's Sona said the presentation would be heavy on infrastructure, but one of the key-features would be the announcement that would be available at least P28 billion in loans from government banks for small and medium enterprises.

"We know there would be a negative reaction from private banks, but they don't want to lend to the small enterprises," said the source.

There would be a string of airport projects in the Sona, he said.

This was prompted by dozens of requests from government and cronies for the drawn-out construction to finance the construction of airports in areas with tourism potential.

At one point, said the source, a mayor from a remote town approached Ms Arroyo requesting funds to build an airport in his town, citing its vast tourism potential.

"But where are the travelers?" the source quoted Ms Arroyo as saying when the mayor's request was brought up.

The request was turned down. "There are the tourists first," the source recalled Ms Arroyo as saying.

Food, hunger

In her 2006 Sona, Ms Arroyo listed five strategies "for global competitiveness."

"Make food plentiful" was the first. But in a survey conducted just a month after her 2006 Sona, Social Weather Stations (SWS) said the number of families experiencing hunger at least once in the three months preceding the survey reached a record high of 16.9 percent in September 2006.

This figure translates to about 2.9 million households, according to SWS.

By regions, the number of people who said they experienced hunger fell in Metro Manila to 12.8 percent, but increased dramatically in Mindanao from 17.0 percent in June 2006 to 21.7 percent in September the same year.

'Pan de sal'

This could be the reason, some officials close to Ms Arroyo said, the President was going to make special mention of the pan de sal in her speech today.

In an attempt to drive home the point that fewer people are now going hungry as a result of lower food prices, Ms Arroyo is going to point out how prices of pan de sal have gone down.

The second strategy she mentioned in her 2006 Sona was to "reduce the cost of electricity to make our industries globally competitive."

Power rates

As of March, factories did enjoy lower power rates than households, according to data from Manila Electric Co., the country's biggest electricity distributor.

As of March 2007, residential users paid on average of 09.78 per kWh; commercial users, P7.78 per kWh; and industrial users, P6.71 per kWh.

During her inauguration of Container Terminal 1 at Subic, Ms Arroyo took note of the latest announcement by Meralco of a P1-per kWh increase in electric bills.

She acknowledged that "power rates are high" in Luzon, with the exception of Isabela and Cloh Ilocos Norte.

"We feel sorry for those [factories] now operating inside free ports," Ms Arroyo was quoted as saying then.

In today's Sona, Ms Arroyo would announce that one of her legislative priorities was to amend the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) to remove a provision that required the government to sell 70 percent of its power assets first before it was to cap its rising rates there.

"We don't have to wait for the 70 percent," she was quoted as saying since in Subic.

The third in her 2006 Sona boast of low-point strategy was to make infrastructure "at least cost to efficiently transport goods and services."

But it's one area where the government needs to spend hundreds of billions of pesos, money for the Medium-Term Development Plan that Ms Arroyo said in her 2006 Sona was already available.

At least seven road projects that are under construction in Luzon are costing the government P52 billion.

But repairs and construction are eating up P7.91 billion of government funds, a briefing paper prepared for the President's Sona says.

The paper says the P52 billion would be poured into railways that would "connect North and South Luzon and draw the [ST and] BBT loop."

Charter change

Another item in her five-point 2006 Sona strategy to make the Philippines globally competitive was to reduce red tape.

"The most prohibitive red tape is our outmoded Constitution," Ms Arroyo said. "We need constitutional change to bring our rules of investments into the new millennium."

Attempts by Ms Arroyo's House frontrunners to amend the Constitution the former way—by voting jointly in a constituent assembly—has since ventured into a botch wall of protests and collapsed. —With Inquirer Research

PRESIDENT ARROYO

Typhoon victims won't starve

THOUSANDS OF TYPHOON VICTIMS IN Albay will have food on their table—at least for the next three months.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development has rolled out a food for work program with a P42-million Japanese government grant-turned-aid for work in response to an international call for more assistance to the victims of Supertyphoon "Reming" that devastated the region last year.

Under the program, a family member who participates in community development projects, such as construction work, will take home P200 worth of food packs daily.

The project is expected to feed 21,410 families in Albay (the worst hit by "Reming," which triggered a deadly avalanche of volcanic debris from Mount Mayon); Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Catanduanes, Masbate and Sorsogon.

The fund, from the Japanese Emergency Grant Aid, was turned over to the DSWD by Japanese Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki at the project's kickoff on Friday. Jocelyn R. Uy

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NEWS

PUBLIC SCHOOL PUPILS TARGETTED

Novel program teaches kids to be heroes

By Julie M. Aurelio

HOW DOES ONE TEACH HERO-ism and love of country to messy kids?

"It's very hard ... heroism is something that is not really taught," said Wyan Wyan Ong, vice president of Hands On Manila (HOM), an alternative volunteer service.

"Heroism can't be taught from textbooks but surrounding children with the right role models might just do the trick," Ong said last night at the launch of "Taking Me Kid," an HOM program that matches high-achieving metropolitan grade school students from public elementary schools.

The program runs for 20 Saturdays with the help of volunteer mentors.

HOM, according to its website, will track the progress of the students until their graduation from elementary school and will help secure scholarships for these students' secondary education.

The recipients will enjoy one-on-one mentoring sessions as well as four educational trips. They will be able to learn beyond the basics of English, Filipino, Mathematics and Science, receive instruction on entrepreneurship and environmental awareness, and understand the importance of literature.

Define hero

"A hero is not just someone who stops bombs or saves the day, that kind of thing," Ong explained. "Doing little things—like thinking of how to recycle a water bottle—can be considered heroic, especially with the environment and neither that is outside."

Angelica Yarnojan, a student from Pembo Elementary School, had a ready answer on how to recycle a plastic water bottle: "I can use it to grow plants, as a pencil holder, or I can use it as a water bottle again," she said in Filipino.

Ong hopes that by exposing high-achieving children to the right role models—HERO: later volunteers are made up of professionals and office workers in Makati City—they would, in the very least, learn to be good citizens or, at best, become little heroes.

At a pilot run, 30 incoming Grade 6 students were selected from Pembo Elementary School in Makati City and Starve de Ochoa Elementary School and Poseview Elementary School in Rizal(ong) City. Ong said most of the kids' parents were minimum wage earners who could only afford to send them to public schools.

The children met their tutors for the first time yesterday at the Filipino Heritage Library in Makati.

Out of the box

Deedee Marquez, HOM program manager, observed that the lack of facilities and opportunities in the public school could hinder the development of high-achieving kids.

This makes the Taking Me Kid program a godsend. It uses out-of-the-box techniques that enhance critical thinking and develop leadership skills among the kids. For instance, environmental issues such as recycling, solid waste management and conservation will be discussed.

CELEBRITY SINGER Cris Villonco asks questions of superhispeed in Hands On Manila's Ang Taking Me Kid Project at the Filipinas Heritage Library in Makati.

HOM developed the program with the help of FRIEP Development School in Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

Ripple effect

Marquez hoped that their newer plans to bring the students to the Internet, so they could see how a new project is put out.

By tapping the elementary of the

ways Ong hopes to create a ripple effect that would eventually extend to other kids in their schools, to their families and to their neighborhood.

"This is a good opportunity for them to be exposed to environment issues. They will be learning more outside the classroom," said Wilhelmina Bautista, principal of Starve de Ochoa Elementary.

She admitted that sometimes, the curriculum in some schools was not enough to help the students learn more and do more.

Ten-year-old Yarnojan said she was optimistic and hopes that the weekly mentoring would teach her about garbage management and keeping her surroundings clean.

Siya pa, kapag hindi maubusan ang kalikasan, baka po magkasakit nara ilantsiko magmula ang Filipinas para kapapasyal sa ating bansa at dumi ang ma Dinsaster if we don't take care of the environment, we might get sick. I want the Philippines to have clean surroundings so we would be admired by other countries)," she said.

Aplus METRO
Editor Evan C. Dipasupil

DID YOU KNOW

THE RESEARCH Institute for Tropical Medicine in Alabang, Muntinlupa City, is the only government research center for Department of Health-recognized tropical medicine. It also manufactures vaccines, provides case to patients suffering from tropical diseases and trains medical personnel on the control of these diseases. It has a 20-bed hospital, with an infirmary, a cancer unit, wards and isolation rooms.
Cyril L. Bendaña, Inquirer Research

9 injured as fire hits 2 schools

By Allison W. Lopez

NINE PEOPLE, MOST OF THEM GIRL students, were injured when a fire hit two public school classrooms yesterday afternoon in San Cruz, Manila.

Four of the victims were three-year-old Mark Alfred Gamiel, who was watching the live videos he was assigned by his by a fire truck making to the Francisco Balagtas Elementary School and Teodora Alonzo High School which are situated near to each other on Mayon Street.

Louisa sustained a bump on his forehead. The others, who were also outdoors, suffered bruises and cuts when they were hit by falling debris from a building in front of the burning schools.

They were identified as their clergy: 7; John Allen Lozano; 9; Kevin Lovedon, 14; Arly Guevarra, 15; Rose Ann Beney, 16; Lourvien Rivera, 15, and Adrian Nang, 14. They were treated at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center.

Jimmy Ty, 24, a fire volunteer, was rushed to the Metropolitan Hospital after she sustained injuries in the head and left arm.

SPO2 Orlando Melen, Manila fire marshal, said that most of the victims have already been declared out of danger.

The fire began at 12:32 p.m. and reached the fifth alarm before it was put out at 1:46 p.m. Though still under investigation, Melen said the fire seemed to have started in the Francisco Balagtas Elementary School which caused more damage because it was made of light materials.

The Teodora Alonzo High School, on the other hand, was built of concrete.

Melen added that they would question two of the elementary school's utility workers, Roger Bautista and Steven Rivera, who were reportedly in the campus when the fire struck.

Residents living near the schools said the smoke that came from the elementary school resembled like "burnt electrical wire."

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A FIREFIGHTER helps his coworker roam his head on the fierce blazing two school buildings in San Cruz, Manila. Nine people were injured in the incident. AP/AFP

Binay: No games, surfing during school hours

By DJ Yap

RUS, BE WARNED: NO NINE GAMING, surfing, or chatting during school hours.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay reminded school and barangay officials in the city to strictly enforce an ordinance banning elementary and high school students from operating Internet shops and earlier "house-to-house" dating schools.

He also ordered the warning to all owners and operators of gaming and Internet establishments to comply with the ordinance, or else face stiff penalties, including fines, imprisonment, and the revocation of their business permits.

For the sake of profit

"Our school and barangay officials, even the parents of schoolchildren, need to remain vigilant to ensure strict enforcement of these regulations that aim to deter unscrupulous owners or operators from introducing certain academic for the sake of profit," Binay said.

Under the 2002 ordinance, as amended by the Makati City Child and Youth Welfare Code, owners or operators of billiard halls, video or computer arcade shops, movie houses, and malls are prohibited from allowing students in school uniforms to enter the premises.

But a provision in the ordinance allows students to enter computer shops, for "research and academic information," and malls or movie houses if accompanied by a parent or student guardian.

Parents, teachers concerned

The ordinance was passed to address concerns raised by parents and teachers on the rising incidence of "cutting classes, truancies, and absenteeism" among students.

In 2004, the ordinance was given more teeth with the enactment of the Makati Child and Youth Welfare Code, a section of which prohibits the operation of gaming shops and similar establishments within 100 meters of a school or church.

Under the Code, violators shall face a fine of P5,000 or a jail term of not more than four months on the first offense, and a fine of P5,000 with a jail term of not more than six months on the second.

The third-time offender face a fine of P5,000 with imprisonment of no more than one year, confiscation of video machines, computers and other paraphernalia, and/or the temporary revocation of their business permits or licenses.

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Conversion of university into pamantasan pushed

RIDE ROAD BEHAVIOR
From Jan. 43, of Quezon City: 'At E Aguinaldo Street corner Escoda and Aguinaldo Streets, jeepney drivers making far passengers may both corners, causing traffic problems and making it impossible for other vehicles to pass."

By Margaux C. Ortiz

TWO COUNCILORS HAVE PROPOSED THE conversion of the Quezon City Polytechnic University into a higher educational institution to be known as the "Pamantasan ng Lungsod Quezon."

Councilors Julio Medina and Winston Castelo of the city's second district, proponents of the measure, urged Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. to make this proposal one of his priority projects during his term.

According to the two councilors, "it is the declared policy of the Quezon City government to provide quality education to all levels in the city's poor but talented students and make it accessible to all."

More funding

The conversion would mean additional government funding for the state university which would allow it to offer more courses.

"Converting QCPU into a pamantasan has been a long-felt need in Quezon City; it would mean more funding for the institution," they stressed.

"The proposed pamantasan is intended to provide collegiate level courses for technical, professional and vocational fields; training in science, engineering and industrial fields; and to promote research, advance studies and progressive leadership to its areas of specialization," the councilors said.

Specialization

The pamantasan is also envisioned to introduce and offer courses which do not receive sufficient emphasis in existing institutions of higher learning in the country, they added.

The councilors pointed out that the proposed conversion would not only expand the QCPU's services but also raise it to the level of a higher educational institution.

The university was established in March 1994 through a city ordinance. Then known as the Quezon City Polytechnic, it became a university in 2001.

Task force created to implement antipoverty programs in QC

By Margaux C. Ortiz

WITH THE RISING UNEMPLOYMENT IN Quezon City, a special task force has been created to take charge in implementing the city government's program of giving residents more access to job opportunities and improving their living conditions.

Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. recently signed nine local government officials into forming the Task Force Integration Team (ATFT) as the lead agency to address poverty in the city.

"These departments and offices will be spearheading programs aimed at generating income and employment to attend to the needs of the city's growing labor force," the mayor said in a statement.

More residents without jobs

The ATFT reported that the number of job loss residents in the city has risen to 354,000 this year, compared to 289,897 in 2006.

According to ATFT head Lt. Salome Sermonia, Belmonte came up with the idea of tapping the nine departments in the antipoverty program "to create the prescription among QC residents" that they are suffering from poverty, unemployment and out of work.

"Many city residents feel that they are poor because of their failure to land jobs that would uplift their families' living conditions," Sermonia said.

She explained that the ATFT's task, which is different from that of the eight other departments in the antipoverty program, is to create more job opportunities.

Some of the programs the task force will undertake this year include hosting more job fairs for local and overseas job markets which are supposed to provide employment for 11,000 applicants, coordinating with firms for on-the-job training or internship requirement, conducting job matching and pairing up a referral system for the unemployed. It will also support the organization of multi-sectoral groups whose members agree to work as community or office volunteers, and facilitate residents' access to capital by providing collateral free and low-interest capital loans.

Its other programs include the improvement of the quality of human resources by conducting community-based training on a variety of livelihood skills and short vocational courses and linking up with small service firms for marketing reasons. It will also offer technical support to small scale businesses, cooperatives, seek personality development and entrepreneurship values, and provide continuous educational support for home helpers and out-of-school youth through the Department of Education's alternative learning System.

Work for 40,000 people

Sermonia said the ATFT already accomplished some of its tasks by helping about 40,000 people get jobs in the last year and earlier this year. It also helped an estimated 23,000 small scale entrepreneurs in putting up their businesses.

The other departments which are involved in the antipoverty program are the Public Information Coordinating Office, City Planning and Development Office, Community Relations Office, City Health Department, Division of City Schools, Environmental Protection and Waste Management Department, Public Employment Service Office and the Office of former Councilors' Affairs.

Citizen's call

0919-8985586

Pedestrian crossing problem solved; footbridge needed

Thank you to the officials who immediately acted on my complaint regarding the presence of illegal and dangerous who wait for passengers outside the National Terminal of SM Fairview center, stopping pedestrians from crossing the street. Now, we are hoping that a footbridge can be built for both SM and Fairmont patrons as pedestrians will not find it difficult to cross the street especially when it rains and the street is flooded. Thanks again!

Jennie Abella-Bautista, 37, Cloverin, Caloocan City

Santolan needs traffic aides

Isn't there a solution to the traffic flow problem in the Santolan-Bonanza (Santo City) area going to Katipunan? Unless you move Rep. 20 minutes to reach it that 'We would also like to call the attention of the authorities concerned regarding the notorious (illegal) taxis at the Shell station at the corner of Sgandia Avenue and Unico who charge each passenger P50 for short trips. Taxis from Unico do not allow other taxis to wait for passengers at this "terminal."

Connie Zabala, 33, Quezon City

Sidewalk vendors here to stay?

The vendors hogging the sidewalks of Timog Tagaytay Street to the Tomohon avenues are back! People were able to use the pedestrian lanes again after the owners of those illegal stalls were evicted from these areas only a week back. Now, the vendors are back. Can't we get rid of these regular fixtures who contribute to the congestion and traffic problems once and for all?

Diony C. JJ. Ilocanio, Manila

Looking for grey

I would like to call the attention of the authorities concerned about certain Metropolitan Manila Development Authority personnel manning the Crossing Aduna area. Instead of easing the traffic jams of motorists, they are the ones causing traffic by by indicating bus drivers who refuse to pick up passengers even if the traffic light beckons green. Don't these aides spot a taxi cab or private vehicle they're always on the prowl, hoping to make a quick buck "catch."

Jonathan Antonio, 29, Mandaluyong City

Three-year wait

The second road on E. Fuentes Street between C3 and Del Monte Street has been in a bad state for almost three years now. We have been waiting for a repair crew to do something about it, but no luck. Who can help?

Jocelyn Reyes, 28, E. Fuentes St., Quezon City

ATTEND AND BE INSPIRED BY THE 2007 YOUNG MARKET MASTERS AWARDEES (YMMA)!

2ND YOUNG MARKET MASTERS SUMMIT
THEME: NEW MARKETING INITIATIVES
Aug. 7 & 8, 2007 | 1:30pm to 6:00pm
BALLROOM, MANDARIN ORIENTAL HOTEL, MAKATI

Day 1 (Aug. 7, 2007 | 1:30pm-6pm)

1
LAUNCHING NEW PRODUCT CATEGORIES
Aurora Mangubat-Suarez, Publisher, Summit Media & YMMA awardee for Business Development

2
LAUNCHING VALUE SERVICE FROM A NEWER PLAYER
Nimrito Alabastro De Jesus, Advisory Account Manager, Summit Communications & YMMA awardee for Account Management

3
LAUNCHING NEW PLAYMER PRODUCTS TO PROTECT TURF
Carlo Clemente, Senior Brand Manager, Alaska Milk & YMMA awardee for Brand Management

4&5
LAUNCHING SERVICE IN A NEW MARKET
Candice Alabastro Arog, Vice President for Marketing and Product, Cebu Pacific Air & YMMA awardee for Service Marketing

Jose Rosas, Senior Marketing Manager, Smart Communications & YMMA awardee for International Marketing

6
LAUNCHING MARKETING INITIATIVES: PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER
Dondi Gomez, Managing Director - Skin, Deodorants & Homecare, Unilever & YMMA awardee for Marketing Management

The Young Market Masters Awards (YMMA) is an advocacy project organized annually by Manamrk and Fielders, Inc. The awards seeks to recognize young marketers 35 years old and below who have done outstanding brand building and innovation.

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Fatah militants lay down arms to bolster Abbas

RAMLLH, WEST BANK—SCORES OF Fatah Palestinian militants today handed in their weapons as a gesture to President Mahmoud Abbas are handing in weapons and signing pledges to renounce violence against Israel, saying they want to give Abbas a chance to consolidate his rule here.

Interviews and discussions with more than a dozen members of the gun-toting, notoriously unruly Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, associated with Abbas' Fatah faction, indicate that at least in the West Bank they are making an open-ended truce.

"Everything must come to an end," said Mahdi Sbeidat, an Aqsa Brigades leader from Al Jalazone refugee camp here in Ramlla, a traditional hotbed of Palestinian militancy in the northern West Bank. "There are two truces, the political and the military. Now is the time for the political stage."

Nasr Hweis, 31, an armed militant and spokesperson for the Brigades in the West Bank, said, "The military wing of Fatah has stopped armed resistance at this stage."

The Aqsa Brigades, which first appeared in 2000, was one of the driving forces of the renewed Palestinian intifada. It was built by Fatah's grassroots leadership with the backing of Yasser Arafat, the former Palestinian leader, as a nationalist force to steal the Islamic militancy of Hamas in the armed struggle against Israel.

At the height of the intifada, the brigades—thought to number in the hundreds—carried out scores of shooting attacks on Israeli civilian vehicles and even used suicide bombings inside Israel.

But in the occupied West Bank in recent years, they have mostly run Fatah themselves in engaging Israeli soldiers who have come looking for them on their turf. Associates of one of the brigades' chief architects, the jailed but influential Marwan Barghouti, say even they support the ceasefire.

In Gaza, by contrast, a more aggressive spirit of armed resistance lives on. There, close affiliated with the Aqsa Brigades are still living rockets to Israel.

But both Israel and the Aqsa brigades in the West Bank, for now, say ceasefire is an experiment.

"We didn't want to be mistaken in the aim of the national project," said Ibrahim Salim, a senior Aqsa commander for the northern West Bank better known by his nom de guerre, Abu Ishtal, in his car of the resistance.

PALESTINIAN children watch the funeral of two Hamas gunmen after they were killed in the northern Gaza Strip. Israeli troops say they approached the border fence with Israel on July 22. AP FILE PHOTO

Israeli finds out wife, not daughter, cheating

JERUSALEM—AN ISRAELI MAN RECEIVED a detective as find out whether his daughter was cheating on her husband was told by the investigator his wife was in bed the one being unfaithful, an Israeli daily reported on Sunday.

The man had his daughter followed at the request of his son-in-law, who had been suspicious of his wife's behavior. The daughter was found innocent but the private investigator managed to snap photographs of the mother and another man caught in the act, the Maariv daily said.

"I never let my daughter's marriage end at the same time, saved myself from a woman who had it all in life but chose another man," the man, who has since sought to end the marriage, was quoted as telling his lawyer. Reuters

Taliban claim killing German hostages, set deadline for 23 S. Koreans

FAMILY members of kidnapped South Korean Christians in Afghanistan cry during a news conference at a restaurant in Seongnam, south of Seoul, on July 22. REUTERS

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN—Afghan and international troops on Sunday continued off the suspected hideouts of Taliban militants who have threatened to kill 23 South Korean hostages, the defense ministry said.

The move came as a South Korean crisis team arrived in Kabul, hours ahead of a 1400 GMT deadline set by the rebels to kill the captives from an evangelical Christian group unless the same number of jailed Islamic fighters are freed.

The Taliban also reaffirmed claims that it has killed two Germans and five Afghans kidnapped the day before the Koreans, but Kabul and Berlin said one of the Germans was still alive and they were trying to save his life.

The Taliban has also demanded that both Germany and South Korea withdraw forces from Afghanistan, where about 2,000 German troops are under Nato command and some 200 Korean soldiers are deployed under a UN-led contingent.

Afghan soldiers, intelligence agents and international forces "have launched a joint operation to rescue the South Korean nationals," the Afghan defense ministry said in a statement that gave no further details.

Ministry spokesperson Gen. Mohammad Zahir Azimi said troops have cordoned off several areas where the hostages might be held, and that they would move to allow officials—but not the South Korean envoys—to enter the capital.

"There has not been any fighting or engagement yet, so far. We'll move to allow hosting from the South Korean delegation. But the first phase of the operation has been started," Azimi said.

The operation was taking place in the Qara Nagh district of Ghazni province, he added.

The Korean Christians were seized on Thursday while traveling on a bus along the highway linking southern Kandahar and Kabul, during an evangelical aid mission in the war-torn country.

Taliban spokesperson Yousuf Ahmadi on Sunday reiterated a claim that two German and five Afghan hostages were killed hereafter after Berlin and Kabul failed to meet eight deadlines for talks.

"They have been killed," Ahmadi told AFP from an undisclosed location. "If the government wants the bodies back, we will hand them over without conditions," he said. AFP

Despite outcry, many Americans can't live without China goods

By Bob Lewer

WASHINGTON—EVEN AS TWO more years about US imports from China, many Americans say they find it hard to manage without the range of products that dominate or in some cases monopolize the marketplace.

Safety concerns over Chinese-made goods prompted further comments to Congress over the past week and led President George W. Bush to establish a new panel to oversee the safety of imported goods.

But economists and consultants say that Chinese-made products have become so ubiquitous it may be next to impossible to avoid Americans off has ever imports.

Sara Bongiorni, a journalist and author of "A Year Without Made in China," which tells of a year long effort by her family in 2005 to avoid buying any Chinese-made products, said the experiment showed how intertwined the economy is with China.

"We can live without Chinese imports, sort of," she wrote, while adding: "Swearing off Chinese products forever seems impractical, unless it might mean our daily supply of toys, cell phone, computer, or auto parts, or any of the items even a television. We don't want to give up those things for good."

Bongiorni said she discovered that toys, toasters and small electronics come mainly from China, as well as many other consumer goods.

During her yearlong experiment, she said, "I ended up spending about 97% of my money on things that are not, compared to $1.8 or $1% for those from China."

China exported some $200 billion worth of products to the United States in 2006, a significant chunk of the $9.2 trillion of US consumer spending.

"Chinese goods may not make up everything we buy, but they sure are a major portion," said Joel Harroff, an economist who operates a consulting firm Harroff Economic Advisors, in the foreword to Bongiorni's book.

Harroff said he based on the decision, "we should be able to live very nicely without having to buy Chinese products. But that just may not be the case, especially for low- or middle-income families."

Harroff added: "Many goods have components that are made in China but assembled elsewhere. Most manufacturers couldn't care less where the component was initially produced. They only care that it is cheap and fits their needs."

China has been the object of a rubric of boycotts, from human rights activists and those who argue Americans are losing manufacturing jobs.

Criticism of China has risen in recent months amid growing concern about safety.

Reports of tainted pet foods, dangerous toys, fake drugs, toxin-coated toothpaste and counterfeit drug-laced frozen eel, illicit pesticide-laden mushrooms and other products have led to recalls and bans and potentially more stringent import and food safety laws.

Made-in-China toothpaste has also been blacklisted, fearing it may contain potentially deadly chemicals reportedly found in tubes sold in Australia and elsewhere. Some have raised outbound products have also been banned.

In the wake of the scares, Utah-based vitamin maker Food for Health International started labelling its products "China free."

"We did this to improve the level of confidence of the people taking vitamin supplements," said executive vice president Curt Robison, who noted that China makes about 85 to 90 percent of the world's supply of synthetic vitamin C and a high percentage of other vitamins.

"The last thing we wanted to imply was that we are not a China-absolutely not," Robison said.

We've had comments from people in China thanking us for taking a lead role" in drawing attention to safety issues.

Tri Peter Morici, economist at the University of Maryland, said he does not see the China export juggernaut slowing despite the range of concerns in the US.

"The trade deficit with China keeps rising," he said. "If there is a consumer movement, not there it has yet to come in any consequence."

Morici said the notion of a boycott fearing any major impact is "hard to fathom."

"The only way this would work is if it spread to Wal-Mart, which is China's biggest merchant," he said.

"If people said they wouldn't go to Wal-Mart because of China products that would change things." AFP

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Casino

Al-Qaida believed targeting Germany

BERLIN—GERMAN AUTHORITIES BELIEVE AL-Qaida is targeting Germany for possible attacks and that German Islamists have been traveling to Pakistan for "terrorist training," a top security official told a newspaper.

In a previous of an article appearing on Sunday, Deputy Interior Minister August Hanning said: "The danger that there could be terrorist attacks here is very real."

"We have many indications that al-Qaida is targeting Germany and German installations abroad, such as embassies," Hanning was quoted as telling Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung. "There is a new quality to the threat to Germany."

Last month German Interior Minister Wolfgang Schauble said authorities needed to intervene in Europe due to the possibility that militants might carry out suicide attacks on Germans soil.

In April the US Embassy in Berlin announced it was boosting security at its facilities in Germany in response to what it described as an increased threat of terrorism.

Hanning, a former head of Germany's BND foreign intelligence agency, also said German Islamists were being trained in Pakistan. Three German Islamists who trained there returned to Germany at the beginning of June, he said.

"We have to assume that the people who returned from Pakistan are planning attacks," he said. "This is a very specific threat and is a reason for concern."

He said the Interior Ministry was aware of 14 Islamists who were in Pakistan, some of whom were still there. He added that police believed that three more Germans who had gone to "terrorist training camps" in Pakistan.

In recent months Pakistani authorities have detained at least seven German Islamists "who could have been involved in planning attacks," he said.

"We need to do everything possible to find out what is behind the Pakistan and was trained there," Hanning said.

Berlin has also said it believed there may be similar training camps in Afghanistan, where Germany has more than 3,000 troops stationed as part of a force peacekeeping force. The Taliban has threatened to step up attacks on German troops.

On Saturday, there were conflicting reports of what happened to two German hostages taken by the Taliban.

A spokesperson for Afghanistan's Taliban movement said it had killed the two after its demands for Germany to withdraw troops and for Kabul to release all Taliban prisoners were ignored.

An Afghan official later said two hostages—an old man and his other had died of a heart attack. The German foreign Ministry said it had received no independent confirmation. *Reuters*

Turks vote in key polls aimed at ending crisis

ANKARA—TURKS WENT TO the polls on Sunday in early legislative elections to end a crisis that pitted the Islamist-rooted government against the secular establishment and called into question the role of religion in the Muslim majority country.

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan is expected to win a convincing victory and secure a second mandate to power despite accusations that his former and Deputy Party (AKP) is working to undermine the separation of state and religion.

Polling stations opened at 0400 GMT to 32 provinces in the east of the country and at 0500 GMT in the west. All voting will end at 1400 GMT.

More than 41 million people will cast their votes to elect 550 lawmakers to the country's single-chamber parliament. Four new parties and some 750 independent candidates are in the running for a seat.

Erdogan was forced to bring elections forward from November after regime crisis triggered by the AKP's attempt to install Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul, a former Islamist, to the presidency.

The move prompted a stiff warning from the Army—which has toppled four governments since 1960—that it will step in to protect the secular order if need be.

Millions of secular Turks took to the streets to mass demonstrations and the secular opposition blocked the presidential elections in parliament to force the president from the AKP would boost the role of religion in all fields of life.

The AKP, which has its roots in a now-defunct Islamist party, rejects charges that it is not committed to the country's secular order and argues that it has dismissed its radical roots for a conservative stance.

But critics accuse the party of having a hidden Islamist agenda and of seeking to install an Iranian-style regime in the mainly Muslim country.

The opposition has tried to maintain that momentum during the election campaign and counts on voters' resentment with accusations of letting tax cuff against separatist Kurdish rebels at the head of mounting violence in the country's southeast.

To counter the opposition's charges, Erdogan, 53, has based his election campaign mainly on his government's impressive economic achievements since coming to power nearly five years ago.

The AKP took to power alone in November 2002, ending more than a decade of weak coalition governments, and under its rule, Turkey has become a high growth country with relatively low inflation and record foreign investment.

It has also launched membership talks with the European Union.

Erdogan has promised to expand individual rights, introduce a new and more civilian constitution and implement long-promised political reforms to tackle rampant corruption if he comes to power again.

In remarks on Saturday, he also warned that his country could send troops into neighboring northern Iraq to strike at Kurdish rebels based there with Iraq and the United States had to resolve the issue.

According to the latest polls, the AKP will garner some 40 percent of the vote, well above its 34 percent showing in the previous election.

The remarkably secular main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) was tipped to come in second place, while the right-wing Nationalist Action Party was also set to return to parliament after an absence of five years.

Several independent journalists, mostly members of the pro-Kurdish Democratic Society Party, are also expected to win seats. *AFP*

SUPPORTERS of the Nationalist Action Party (MHP) wave Turkish flags during a campaign meeting in Istanbul on July 21, on the eve of elections. —AFP

Bush has 5 polyps removed from colon

DOCTORS FOUND AND REMOVED five small polyps from President Bush's colon during a routine screening Saturday that forced him to relinquish his presidential powers to Vice President Dick Cheney for more than five hours.

Scott W. Stansell, a White House gastroenterologist, said the polyps were not discovered were some on visual inspection by a team of doctors from the National Naval Medical Center, who performed the procedure in Camp David, 90 km to a scheduled released late Saturday morning. Stansell said the polyps would be sent to the Naval Medical Center for testing.

Stansell said there would be a 48- to 72-hour wait for the results. He described the polyps as less than a centimeter in diameter each.

The use of a sedative during the colonoscopy necessitated the transfer of power to Cheney.

Bush's physician, Dr. Richard Tubb, swore in the court.

It was the second cancer screening of Bush's presidency. During the first, in 2002, Bush also transferred his presidential powers to Cheney.

That time, doctors found no polyps. But doctors did find and remove benign polyps from Bush's colon during exams in 1998 and 1999, when he was the governor of Texas.

The polyps were of a type called adenomatous, which arise out of glandular tissue. In such cases, doctors recommend follow-up examinations every few years to search for new polyps and to check for smaller polyps that may have escaped notice in earlier colonoscopies. *NYT*

Early raves, fast sales greet final 'Harry Potter'

NEW YORK—THE BOOKS ARE out, the reactions spreading.

"Harry Potter is amazing, it has definitely gone very beyond what I expected," Deb Richtmeier, 35, of Cherry Hill, New Jersey said of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," which sold nine million copies worldwide. (*See related story on Lifestyle, Page C1*)

"Harry Potter fans are always trying to predict what will happen next, and J.K. Rowling always gives them something different," Richtmeier said.

On line 1 of the A.M. (After Harry) Six, reviewers and readers mourned the end of a historic series that proved young people can still weave the written word like the crapaun branch by it was a day for the sleepless and the sleepy to rejoy and to scroll one last, Dark rune of Potter.

Critics lavished before Rowling's imaginative world-building and her ear for dialogue, and readers praised the series for its appeal to the genre of children's and fantasy authors—J.R.R. Tolkien, L. Frank Baum, Roald Dahl—and held in awe for living up to the most intimidating standards.

Rowling's fantasy and rebirth-ian's world, filled with complicated characters and passageways back stories to beyond the reach of most writers," wrote the Los Angeles Times' Mary McNamara.

Rowling's ability to build great, three characters sees seven books filled with plot twists, folklore and even a magical curriculum and then bring it all to an smoothes, emotionally wrenching conclusion—that is totally epic quest."

On Saturday, booksellers around the world welcomed eager readers, young and old, in glasses and capes, some showing some owned, adjourn by the thick, hardback book with the opening words: "The two men appeared out of nowhere, a few yards apart in the narrow, mountain lane."

The first six Potter books have sold more than 325 million copies, and in some places demand for "Deathly Hallows" is already exceeding supply. *AP*

PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY
Public Estate Authority
Reclamation Authority Building
Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
SUPPLY FOR MANPOWER SERVICES (P1-07)

1. The Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA), through its duly-authorized Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), intends to apply the sum of Four Million Nine Hundred Twenty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Five Pesos and 40/100 (Php 4,927,355.40), inclusive of VAT, being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to eligible contractors for the supply of the following:

2. The PRA now invites bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply for Manpower Services. The description of the Supply is given in Section V of the Bidding Documents.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures and using a non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act." Only duly licensed Philippine nationals and associations are eligible to participate in this bidding provided they are registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) under Category B and Small B with the appropriate license to engage in trade, and/or provide the service, or manufacture and/or supply the goods required by this Invitation to Bid. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat and purchase the Bidding Documents starting July 23, 2007 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased from July 23 to August 7, 2007 by interested Bidders from the PRA Cashier and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00). The method of payment will be cash or check payable to the Philippine Reclamation Authority. The Bidding Documents may be downloaded free of charge from the website of the PRA and the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS), provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

6. The PRA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on July 31, 2007 at 10:00 AM at the PRA Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Reclamation Authority Building, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila.

7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted to the PRA Office on or before August 14, 2007 at 11:00 AM. After which time no bids shall be received. Bids will be opened immediately at that time in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend. Late bids shall not be accepted.

8. All bidders must submit on August 14, 2007 at 11:00 AM at the PRA Conference Room, 3rd Floor, address "Attn: Ms. Patricia Rosario Bautista" the following eligibility requirements under Section 25.1(b)(i) of the IRR, namely:
a. Valid and current Mayor's/Business permit issued by the city or municipality where the principal place of business of the prospective bidder is located;
b. Valid and current Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) license and registration for the type and cost of work required hereunder;
c. Tax clearance per Executive Order 398, Series of 2005, as finally reviewed and approved by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR);
d. Audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the preceding calendar year;
e. Net financial contracting capacity (NFCC) computation;
f. Statement of all its ongoing and completed government and private contracts including contracts awarded but not yet started, if any, whichever is shorter, indicating for each contract the following:
i. name of the contract;
ii. date of the contract;
iii. kind of goods;
iv. amount of contract and value of outstanding contracts;
v. date of delivery schedule based on the Notice of Award or Notice to Proceed; and
vi. vii. Date of completion.

9. Prospective Bidders should have completed, within the period specified in the Philippine Bidding Documents, a similar contract as the Contract to be bid, and should have the capabilities and financial resources, to successfully perform the Contract. The Bidder must submit a statement of all its completed similar contracts within the last five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids.

10. Pursuant to GPPB Resolution No. 09-2005, all prospective bidders are mandated to file their income and business tax returns electronically using the Electronic Filing and Payment System (eFPS).

11. The PRA reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Atty. LAMBERTO B. MOLLAN
BAC Chairperson

DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT
Davao City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Davao City Water District (DCWD), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites all interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following Infrastructure Project. Bidders may be contractors, corporations, cooperatives or joint ventures duly registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and legally authorized to engage in the business in the Philippines.

Name of Contract: Construction of Facilities for the Commissioning of Pumps for Production Wells No. 3
Location: Matina Pangi, Davao City
Brief Description: The project includes the Site Development consisting of Control House, Perimeter Fence, Earthworks, Gabion Wall, Drainage System, Pedestrian, Pipe Support, Interlocking area and roadway, Installation of Mechanical, Electrical and Electrical Facilities, Main Control Unit (Soft Start), Chlorination System (1+1 by Vertical Mechanical Type) with 1no. Centrifugal Pumps, and 750 lbs Rotocon Chlor-Tainer

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC): Php 2,497,000.00
Contract Duration: 150 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should have completed, within PCAB License applicable to the contract to be bid, a similar contract as the Contract to be bid, and should have the capabilities and financial resources, to successfully perform the Contract. Prospective bidders may obtain further information from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on the dates and upon payment of the applicable fee in the amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 2,500.00) for the Bidding Documents. The method of payment will be cash or check payable to the Davao City Water District. The Bidding Documents may be downloaded free of charge from the website of the DCWD and the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS), provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

All qualified bidders, as stipulated in Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Qualification and Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification, Award of Contract, Qualifications and Duties of Contract Bidders contained in the bidding documents in R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) No.

The schedule of BAC Activities is as follows:

BAC-IB Activities	Schedule
1. Pre-bid conference	July 23 - 10, 2007
2. Issuance of Bid Documents to Prospective Bidders or Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	July 23 - 10, 2007
3. Bid Opening	July 23 - 10, 2007
4. Receipt of Eligibility Documents	July 23 - August 1, 2007
5. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	August 13 - 24, 2007
6. Issuance of Bid Documents	August 14 - 27, 2007
7. Pre-bid Conference	August 14 - 27, 2007
8. Bid Opening	September 11, 2007 / 10:00 AM
9. Receipt and Opening of Bids	September 11, 2007 / 10:00 AM

The BAC-IB will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms free of charge at the DCWD Office of the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat, Ground Floor, Administration Building, Davao City. Only those bidders who have been issued the Eligibility Forms and have submitted the same duly accomplished and with complete attachments as required in the Eligibility Forms, not later than August 1, 2007 at 5:00 PM, shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Those who have been issued the Eligibility Forms but failed to submit the same duly accomplished and with complete attachments as required in the Eligibility Forms, not later than August 1, 2007 at 5:00 PM, shall not be allowed to participate in the bidding.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC-IB to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 2,500.00 to the DCWD Cashier.

The Davao City Water District reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, or to accept the bid most advantageous to the DCWD.

Engr. ERWIN EXCUSAL R. GOMEZ
Bids and Awards Committee II Chairperson

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Caraga Administrative Region
Butuan City

2nd INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education, Caraga Administrative Region Regional Office through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) intends to apply the sum of Twenty Million Pesos (Php 20,000,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to eligible contractors for the following:

LOT	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	ABC (Php)
1	Renovation/Repair of Regional Office Building	Lot	P 20,000,000.00
2	Renovation/Repair of Regional Office Building	Lot	
3	Renovation/Repair of Regional Office Building	Lot	
4	Renovation/Repair of Regional Office Building	Lot	

The Schedule of Bids Activities is as follows:

ACTIVITY	DATE AND TIME	VENUE
Issuance of Bidding Documents	July 30, 2007 to August 3, 2007	Regional Canteen Regional Office Building, Bonifacio Drive, Butuan City
Pre-bid Conference	August 3, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.	Regional Canteen Regional Office Building, Bonifacio Drive, Butuan City
Deadline for Submission of Bids	August 10, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.	Regional Canteen Regional Office Building, Bonifacio Drive, Butuan City
Opening of Bids	August 10, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.	Regional Canteen Regional Office Building, Bonifacio Drive, Butuan City

The Bidding Documents may be acquired by any interested bidder from the Regional Office Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00). The method of payment will be cash or check payable to the Department of Education, Caraga Regional Office. It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS), provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The Department of Education, Caraga Regional Office reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Engr. EDGAR A. ARRIOLA
BAC Vice-Chairman

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Hot Warriors unmask Archers

By Jeannie W. Paya

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST Warriors showed who's the real team to fear this season.

Unleashing in the second half, the Warriors crushed the La Salle Archers, 96-78, to remain as the only unbeaten team in the Unitel men's basketball tournament yesterday as the jam-packed Cuneta Astrodome.

Axel Lutimco came off the bench to tie 11 points as the Warriors took advantage of almost every offensive opportunity against the pre-tournament favorite Archers, who played their worst game of the season.

"Everything that we wanted to happen, happened," said coach Jimlo Pumaren after the Warriors cruised to their fourth straight victory. "The rotation was not second unit. Pero'y tayo. I pull out any line five, the level of normalcy of the second group was still the same."

The Warriors added the Archers to their formidable list of victims that includes defending champion University of Santo Tomas, defunct Mercantil Honnold and powerhouse Ateneo.

La Salle absorbed its first loss to join rival Ateneo in second place with 3-1 slates.

Rookies Fred Lee and Mark Pesquisan, Junjun Martinez and Elmer Espiritu also got in the scoring race as the Warriors turned a slim 50-54 margin into a 21-point bubble, 84-63, in the fourth period.

Earlier, the Far Eastern Tamaraws found their shooting touch in the closing minutes for a 94-89 victory over the resilient Adamson Falcons.

JB Cawaling and Marvel Bonyuet started as the Tamaraws rode over Che Belcina, 19-7, in the first four minutes.

"We were okay in defense, but we couldn't execute our offense," said FEU coach Glenn Capacio.

"It's a good thing Cawaling and Bonyuet were able to execute in the end. But in the whole game, we were struggling."

Cawaling, a 6-foot-3 rookie swingman, shot five points in a 7-0 FEU run as the Tamaraws secured the lead at 65-62 after trailing at 39-42.

A Bonyuet triple gave FEU a 111-44 advantage with 10.7 seconds left to end the victory that improved the Tamaraws' record to 2-2.

The Tamaraws' turn at the Smaller veterans equaled their 16-point total output in the first period, their highest quarter production in the first three periods.

Derrick Cabahug registered 20 points, but the league's leading scorer has yet to lend the Falcons to a single win in four games.

The Warriors forced the Archers to 21 turnovers, while limiting their own errors to 14.

Led by Lutimco, the Warriors got off to a strong start with the bench scoring 16 of UE's 26 first-quarter points.

La Salle opened the second quarter with seven straight points capped by back-to-back triples from JV Casio and Ryan Monteholo to stave within 26-23 after trailing at 26-17.

But the Warriors wiped out all the energy the Archers displayed in the first half with a Watson triple that sparked a 13L scoring barrage for a 72-48 advantage at the end of the third period.

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PBA MVP: Valuable, valueless?

BARE EYE

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(800) 4 ISIN VE-ray ballerin Mid-ird street from the ved area, but PBA commissioner Noli Eala could not con-cealhis glee.

Be Indeed a sweet Solidar-ninho, a kid who ucked up with the dream of Christmas package at bedside.

Eala wanted no time to congratulate and thank everybody.

He had every reason to feel incredibly great, a lot ghoulier than Alaska coach Tim Cone and team owner Wilfred Uytengsu combined.

• • •

In the first place, how could a controversy-laden end of the league's biggest superstar's rubdown into one of the most memorable tournaments in PBA history?

Spectators who normally headed for the exits after the final buzzer stayed behind for the awards to savor some of basketball's sweetest moments.

For the Alaska Aces, mainly a group of discards woven painstakingly into a championship outfit, the decade-long wait to land another championship was worth the long wait.

The 2007 Fiesta Conference title as grand as their PBA debut wave.

For coach Cone, everything again left brand new 26 pounds later after his first PBA title victory.

• • •

Enough of these words from the spectator.

Repeat: It was more than Eala could ask for after the great scrollers in forming the All-national team that will soon join for an Olympic battle.

The final moments of the Finals finish, in short, were beyond the commissioner's expectations.

Of course, there were other serious intrigues and hidden plots that Eala, together with league managers, should start sniffing.

So who was the MVP trophy big enough for Willie Miller, who was stately responsible for pushing the best-of-seven title series to the limit?

You see, the value of Miller in helping Alaska win the Finals series only by brilliant plays could easily be measured through statistics.

• • •

But it's also worth asking how Alaska would've lost Game 5 of the championship playoffs if Miller was not totally relentless and did not play an opposite role in that very crucial game.

From 20 points in Game 4 down to a silly 6 points in Game 5, then back with 16 points in the succeeding game, below getting full thrusts in the life-clinching match.

Indeed in Game 5, Miller appeared as though he had shown up with the wrong pair of shoes...both left side...or something coming off from an hernia operation.

He was very willing to go the wrong way in the direction of his guard.

For the record, coach Tim Cone would later make public his displeasure, while knowledgeable fans chuckled their tongues again.

• • •

Well, except free to call these inadequacies committed by Miller in Game 5 honest mistakes.

But it's also worth noting that it was not the first time that talented guard had figured in that winning or game-ness.

So, why was he distracted by his free pucks?

There ought to be an answer behind these questions.

Did Miller play his best in the last PBA championship series?

By the record, Miller was a real gem in Game 7 last Friday when he dished the middle for a decisive turnover, then swiped the ball off the cheating Mac Cardona before setting up Beau Belo for an easy basket in the overtime homestretch.

Willie Boy, our neighbor here in Mandaluyong, indeed deserved all the accolades and the hosts for those great heroics.

• • •

But then, how could they thank Miller enough after he played hooky in Game 1 to help produce one of the most memorable basketball blunders in the land?

So they sell to the grateful son of a system who's openly rumored to have a gangster grip on some buyable PBA stars?

OK, Miller is only human. He can't be expected to play super 365 days a year.

But when one reliable superstar also proves to be the Most Valueless Player in a crucial game, shouldn't he also be given dubbed tag?

Maybe a lifestyle check could go a long way in solving the guessing mess.

They ought to clear Miller of the dirty suspicions because the PBA, in the first place, is not run by the Genesis.

It's Noli Eala, not Ben Abalos of Mandaluyong, who's in charge in the pro league.

Lee, Zhou triumph

Chinese shut out

By Romina S. Asuncion

A DISTRAUGHT DEFEAT DID WONDERS FOR Malaysia's Lee Chong Wei as he overcame a tired Chen Hong of China, 21-9, 21-15, to bag the men's singles title and the $9,000 top prize yesterday in the 2007 Kings Panasonic Philippine Open badminton championship at the Philsports Arena.

Hong Kong's Chan Yik copped the women's singles crown over China's Zhu Jingjing, 21-18, 21-12. Zhou won $5,200.

Taiwan's Chen Yu-chin and Chang Wei-hsing triumphed in the women's doubles and Kao Kuo Kent and Tan Boon Heong gave Malaysia a second title in the men's doubles while completing an unexpected title chance of China in all four final events.

The Taiwanese, who reached the finals after conquering defending champions Jo Novita and Greysia Polii of Indonesia in Saturday's semifinal round, 21-17, 19-22, downed Pan Pan and Qing Tian, 22-20, 21-15.

Kao and Tan, the top seeds and the world's No. 3 pair, rallied from 19-19 in the second set to complete a 22-0, 21-24 set over Cao Chen-dong and Hu Chenghu.

Top-seed Indonesian and world No. 2 Liliyana Natsir and Nova Widianto earlier hammered the South Korean pair and 6th seeds Hwang Yu-mi and Han Sang-hoon, 21-17, 21-13, in the second doubles.

The winning doubles pair each received $7,125 while the losers got $4,800.

The world No. 3 Lee advanced to the finals without making a single shot as semifinal opponent Sony Dwi Kuncoro of Indonesia, withdrew because of back spasms.

"It really helped that I won by default (on Saturday) because I managed to rest," said the 24-year-old Lee, who won the Indonesian Open last May and the Malaysian Grand Prix in February.

Lee said he would take a three-week rest before resuming practice for the World Championships in Kuala Lumpur late next month.

A satisfied Lee (a world No. 7 Lin Dan of China in the China Masters last week, Lee said he is gearing up the Thailand Southeast Asian Games in December).

The top seed and world No. 3 Chen and Lee was on fast for him during the 19-minute match and it didn't help that his quarterfinal and semifinal games were both exhausting.

Lee was forced to throw sets by Vietnamese Nguyen Tien Minh on Friday, 17-21, 21-19, 21-15, and posted a close 21-19, 22-20 semifinal victory over Kuwait Park Jung-hwan.

Chen, a two-time All-England and China Open winner, settled for $4,800.

Eliott's victory was her fourth this year after wins for wins in the Miami Pan Am International, New Zealand Open and Thailand Open.

MALAYSIAN Lee Chong Wei (left) and Hong of China.

RECORD-SMASHING RUN

Vertek leaves woes, foes behind

By Jasmine W. Payo

TROUBLE-SLIDDEN HEMO TO SEEN after Eduardo "struck" Buenaventura.

We when the race was flagged off, the national record holder and only left his worries behind—by stormed away from his rivals and hurled the old course record.

Buenaventura, shrugging off his severe suspension from the Philippine team, rolled off a tantalizing victory yesterday in the 42.6 Manila leg of the 2014 National Mile Marathon.

"I trained and prepared for this race even if I had not received an allowance [due to the suspension]," Buenaventura said in Filipino after setting a new course standard of two hours, 38 minutes and 53 seconds.

Buenaventura, who struck a shady on the first lost, surged ahead early and finished just nine seconds off his NP feat of 2:10:44, set in Oita, Japan, in 2004.

It was a feat hard to ignore as the run-now Olympian from Sto. Niño, South Cotabato, showed that he remains as the country's best long-distance runner.

"I felt different in the last 10K, it was [so fast and] felt dizzy," Buenaventura said at the end of a race that was lined-off at dawn at the Rizal Park in Manila and finished under the sweltering sun in front of wealthy Quirino Grandstand.

"I was hoping to beat my personal record," said Buenaventura, feeling he could have smashed by at least three minutes. Countryman Rabeh Mile served of 2:15:10 set in 2005.

It was much tighter, though, in the female race where Pinoy Mina Cadena Carreon held off a chasing pack in the final stretch to rule in 2:56:59.

The 28-year-old Buenaventura, along with fellow, were suspended by the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association in May for taking part in an unsanctioned race.

The move was reminiscent of Buenaventura's win in the Manila leg of Mile Marathon, months after his infamous disqualification in the 5,000-meter race of the 2005 SEA Games in Manila.

Buenaventura, who was stripped of the 2005 gold medal due to a race violation, breasted the tape nearly 1.5 minutes ahead of runner-up Dorjan Ilo Buenaventura, who clocked 2:30:08. Maureen Corpuz was third in 2:30:47.

Buenaventura started building on his lead heading into the halfway mark at the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

He pocketed P50,000 plus a bonus of P150,000 for breaking fabled record of 2:11:33 and P250,000 for breaking the first runner to break the notable time barrier of two hours and 10 minutes.

Carreon started to pull away at the 35K mark from Chrisabel Ritchie, who came in second at 2:57:04, despite a bloodied left foot. Ellen Tokiomna finished third in 3:01:17.

"Chrisabel and I were together until the final turn to Bonifacio," the Baguio-based Carreon said. "I got ahead from there."

Other results: Men's 10K — 1. Jun Jaime Orit (2:02), 2. ROMEO VARON (29:40), 3. Jose Dagan (30:05).

Women's 10K — 1. Cristy Magnaye (40:57), 2. Joy Verano (42:03), 3. Dorie Dalam (43:05).

Men's 2K — 1. Mikkel Quizon (6:15), 2. Christopher Ulloa (6:48), 3. Dante Amigo (7:00).

Women's 5k — 1. Mary Ann Ramos (19:28), 2. Hanah Sanchez (20:10), 3. Mercedes Tiscal

BUENAVISTA strides as he nears the finish line of the National Mile Marathon's MCR leg.

Amonsot sustains 'blood clot' after defeat

MICHAEL ANTHONY OF SOUTHSIDE RETAINED his WBO interim lightweight title with a unanimous decision over Filipino challenger Czar Amonsot yesterday in six all-action bouts at the Mandalay Bay Events Center in Las Vegas.

The Filipino was knocked down in the second and 12th rounds, although Kazakh finished with his swollen face a grotesque mask of blood.

Judge Robert Garcia scored it 118-110, Patricia Jarman saw it 119-112 and CJ Ross penned it 115-113, all in favor of Kazakh.

Both fighters were sent to the hospital after the fight, which is a routine precaution mandated by the Nevada State Athletic Commission.

Yahoo Sports boxing writer Kevin Iole later broke the news that Amonsot suffered a bleeding in his brain that could threaten his ring career.

Nagpole physician Jeff Dashnaw, concerned about the head blows Amonsot took from his

MICHAEL Kazakh crash over Czar Amonsot after flooring the Filipino in the 2nd round.

ordeal, ordered a neurological examination.

"The Nevada Athletic Commission said doctors discovered a small subdural hematoma," said Iole. "It was not expected to be life-threatening, but Amonsot's career is probably over."

Amonsot's manager, Michael Aldrigate, who was with the boxer at the hospital, said there had been no confirmation about the "brain blood clot." He said further tests will be conducted today.

"I said I was going to introduce new blood to the sport and I guess you saw a lot of new blood," Kazakh, unbeaten in 23 fights, said after the bout.

"He is very powerful," Amonsot told Cino Nobel of ESPN. "When he knocked me down twice, I was OK. He is a dirty fighter, but he deserved the victory."

Kazakh proved to be the stronger fighter and landed the more meaningful shots, although Amonsot bloodied the champion starting in the second round, when he was knocked down after walking through a shot.

Amonsot, who came into the fight as the WBO Asia-Pacific lightweight champion, lost for the first time in 22 outings.

Salvio L. Jaguenday, Contributor

Pagadian stuns Pacman cagers

ZDS SANTOS CITY—ABAYNE DAMEN CCTS PAGADIAN Packmen produced the second upset in the Opening Cooking Of ABC National Cup playoffs Friday night by crushing Manny Pacquiao's MP Pacman-Sarmian cagers, 75-62, at the Legaspi Gym here.

Erlan Cruz scorched with 19 points and 12 rebounds to lift the Packmen to a semifinal tie with defending champion Davao Cebu.

Toyota Aklan, which shocked Montalla Pawnshop-Davao in the playoff opener recently, faces Tagaytay Spring in a quarterfinal match of the Visayas-Davao Chua & Dagupan Bus City pick.

Rolls, owned by businessman Rolando Ty and supported by Mayor Jerry Timan, is expected to have its hands full against the Cooking Distributors of ABC president Balthazar "Lo" Padilla and CVP Mayor Benedict Sotto Nito.

The scores:

PACMAN 75— Cruz 19, Fortaleza 9, Villena 12, Anderson 8, Hodge 5, Mondejar 5, Carter 3, Diamond 2, Sevilla 2, Ayala 1, Antonio 0, Pellaman 0, Ayala 0.

DAVAO 62— Pascual-Ayala 13, Gonzalez 12, Tenorio 10, Ferrer 7, Bonifacio 1, Montero 1, Dimagiba 0, Bonifacio 0, Zate 1, Zate 0, Perona 0, Lingat 0.

Quarterscores: 13-19, 40-28, 51-43, 75-62.

Hamilton crashes, Raikkonen takes pole

MAGNY-COURS, GERMANY—(CNN) (UNOFFICIAL) LEAD Lewis Hamilton escaped serious injury Saturday after crashing at high speed in qualifying for the European Grand Prix, while Kimi Raikkonen took the pole position for Ferrari. Fernando Alonso, the two-time defending champion, was second in qualifying. Felipe Massa of Ferrari was third.

SPORTS

Sergio leads by three

Garcia on track for first major victory

A GAME player's keen to perfect his elbows Sergio Garcia in back as the British Open field from above. AFP

CHEROKEE, SCOTLAND—Tiger chasers grow louder as Sergio Garcia crossed the bridge over Hell's Burn to second tee 14th green at Carnoustie a no-option on worst 18 green Mats ehalfie. He recovered his cap in a steady rain and soaked up the adulation.

It was a scene fit for a coronation at the British Open.

For Garcia, the odds have never been better, he has never played better or felt so confident.

Garcia played close to perfection on Saturday for a 3-under 68 that gave him a three-shot lead over Steve Stricker with no one else closer than six shots. And while that will be the third time he has played in the final group as a major, there are two drastic differences.

He has the lead this time, and Tiger Woods won't be in his side.

"It definitely doesn't hurt," Garcia said. "It's a fantastic situation to be in at the end of the day. I only depend on myself."

Garcia finished off his bogey-free round with a 15-foot putt that never left the flag and sent him floating after it, screaming out in ecstasy as he crossed the bridge over the burn. He was so overcome with an intensity that showed he already knew the outcome.

"Oh, he's good," he said. "He's good."

It happened once the greens and stopped 12 feet left of the flag, and the only disappointment was having to settle for par.

"I seemed to make the putt on 14 just for them, and to have the feel that would have been just out of this world," said Garcia, who was at 8-under 208 and holding the 54-hole lead in a major for the first time.

Stricker might have to match his second round to give Garcia a fight. He ran off three straight birdies at the start on Saturday, and was equally impressive with four par saves at the end for a 68, the best score even at Carnoustie challenge British Opens.

"It was just one of those rounds where everything kind of went right," Stricker said. "It was quite a day. It was quite as expensive. It was a lot of fun, and I guess myself a chance going into tomorrow."

Whether anyone else has a chance depends on Garcia.

The 27-year-old Spaniard has held a 54-hole lead nine times in his career, and he has converted only five of them. Two years ago at the Bhubaneswar Championship, he squandered a six-shot lead in the final round and lost in a playoff.

"He's got a lot of things to think about tonight," Lee said. "I've been in that position many times. It's not an easy thing."

Ok, a three-time major champion, overcame a triple bogey 8 on the easiest hole at Carnoustie to shoot a 68, matching him on the large group at 3-under 208 that included Colin Montgomerie (68), Padraig Harrington (68) and DJ Choi (72).

One par Garcia won't have to think about is Woods.

"Trying to become the first player in more than 50 years to win the British Open three straight times. Woods hosted a 615-yard 4th nominee to the head.

It left her bandaged and bleeding, and Woods spoony at the sight of blood on the links.

He wound up with a 68, leaving him eight shots behind at 1-under 212. Woods has never won a major from behind, and only once has he made up as eight-shot deficit in the final day of any tournament—the 1999 Johnnie Walker Classic in Thailand.

"I've got to be playing a little better than I have been, that's for sure," Woods said. "But at least I'm given myself a chance going into tomorrow [but Lawrie] came from 10 back in '99. Certainly, you can do it around this golf course."

Yes, but Lawrie needed a triple bogey from Jean Van de Velde on the final hole in 1999. The Frenchman was a newcomer to the majors back then.

Garcia has been contending for majors since he was 19, and he looks as though he's about to finally break through.

"It's going to be a hard day, but hopefully one to remember," he said. AP

Japanese clouters nose out RP-Metro Manilans

ANGELES CITY—JAPAN PEPPERED 12 GUEST rounds with three hits in the ninth inning and went on to score a 3-1 victory over RP Team Metro Manila yesterday at the start of the Nissy baseball Asia-Pacific Zone Boston Division Championships at the Mimi Wright baseball field here.

The Japanese pushed home three runs (Shigeyuki Ono—Motokazu Kuchi-Nakamura said) Sachi Ayase Kimura as the visitors won the opener of the event for 11-12 years which drew top players from Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong and the entire host squad, Team RP Cornwall scores.

The hosts actually broke the ice in the third inning when Ishmael Bernardo hit Antonio Manzano's hit.

The Filipinos, represented by players from the Metro Manila Baseball League of Nia Bautista, Ian Hurdichick Southridge, De La Salle-Zobel, Manila School and Ateneo, failed to sustain their first start in the event which makes a birth in next month's Pony World Series in California.

The RP-Metro Manila division plunge into a double-elimination format this morning (Sunday) as they take on the Taiwanese at 9 a.m. before clashing with RP-Central Luzon at 1 p.m.

Earlier, Philippine Tri Baseball Association president Rodolfo "Boy" Ilagan Jr. declared the games open with Angeles City Mayor Nieves Rodriguez, Rep. Yeng Guiao, Clark Field Administrator Gary Lim, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority chairman Feliciano Salvador, Capt. Rolando Ong, president Lou Lua, Subic Oil, Philippine Air Force representatives and delegates of Chinese Taipei and Japan gracing the rites.

ALL EYES ON HIM Dustin Hutchinson makes his much-awaited debut in the AFL, appearing as a substitute for 13 minutes in an exhibition between his team, the LA Galaxy, and English football squad Chelsea in Carson, California. AFP

Vino warns foes: Don't count me out from the race

ALBI, FRANCE—ALEJANDRO Vinokourov is back with a message for his four-de-France rivals.

"The Tour starts today," he said, after winning Saturday's time trial, handy a week after pulling back from an a week since Tuesday had rolled his chance and had him considering retiring from the race.

"It was important to me to show myself and to me, other riders who had counted me out that it was too early for the general classification to be decided," he said.

Vinokourov rode Saturday's 52-kilometer to stage 13, making his fourth career stage win equally as Discovery Channel's Lance Armstrong did previously on the final day of the 2005 Tour. That day, it was a sprint up the Champs-Elysees. Since Jesus knew he honored his finish over 54 kilometers (34 miles), and on he rode in the winner's podium Spanish rider Oscar Pereiro wanted in the road to make his hand.

Vinokourov nodded coolly and rode on. "The 20-year-old, Kazakh rider was more demonstrative in front of the fans when he reached the podium and tapped both his forefingers on his chest as if to say "I'm the man!"

Nobody could argue. He finished more than a minute clear of every body in one hour, six minutes and 56 seconds.

"I gave everything," Vinokourov said. "It gives me twice as much motivation for the rest of the race."

Armstrong had flown indoors on the top form. Another American Rhodes was third and Andrey Kashechkin fourth.

"I'm not surprised by Basso's result," said Rhodes, the pro race favorite. "Everyone knows that he can be so good."

It was a day for surprises: Fmr Kazakhstan's win, and second Michael Rasmussen keeping the yellow jersey by finishing 11th.

But a noted time trialist, Rasmussen showed impressive form—he's a day after being hounded by media because he'll previously failed to notify cycling authorities of his whereabouts and they could not find him for random tests.

"I decided to put the last couple of days behind me," Rasmussen said. "I only answer questions regarding the race."

Despite the ban, and the concerns, Rasmussen's Rabobank team-mates showed their confidence in him. Rasmussen wore yellow—even though the applause was more muted for him than for Vinokourov.

"I think I did the time trial of my life," Rasmussen said. AP

GAMBLING REF

FBI probe shocks stars

NEW YORK—NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIation players were shocked by the revelation that a former senior referee was being investigated by federal authorities for gambling on games that he officiated.

The story was broken by the New York Post on Friday and confirmed by the NBA.

"It's a hard pill to swallow," Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant said from Las Vegas, where Team USA was preparing for the upcoming FIBA Americas olympic qualifying tournament. "But it's just the reality of the matter. As basketball players, all we can do is go out and play hard and leave it all on the floor."

Cleveland Cavaliers star LeBron James, also in Las Vegas, echoed Bryant's views.

"I think the NBA is going to take care of it," James said. "We'll see what happens. The NBA is going to do everything that might be going on with the allegations. As a player, we'll see what happens. We don't want to get involved in it."

Denver forward Carmelo Anthony told the LA Times that the report had planted seeds of doubt in his mind about games he had played in. AFP

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SPORTSWATCH

Milo squash 3rd leg set at MSC

THE THIRD LEG OF THE MILO SPAN NATIONAL Squash Circuit will be held Saturday next week at the Makati Sports Club with some 80 national stalwart seeking players ranking action. Organized by the Squash Rackets Association of the Philippines and sponsored by Milo and the Philippine Sports Commission, the two-week tournament will be competitive in two divisions—Level B. Each division will be seeded to enhance match division. For inquiries, call tournament director Ronny Dimacali 631-5604, fax 426-3649 or e-mail rdimacali@ibj.org, or visit the SRSP website at www.srsp.ph.

56 fights in Makati derby today

FIFTY-SIX QUALITY MATCHES ARE ON THE MENU WHEN the 49'ers Cockpit Derby starting at 6 p.m. today at the Makati Coliseum with 8 Mag Derby, Iron and Steel-Makabisa as main backers. This will be the first of three 3-cockers fixed out of the series. Like the other two derbies slated on July 30 and Aug. 6, the derby fee is P5,000 and guaranteed prize is P200,000. Meanwhile, the screening competition for P5,000 Super 7-Mag Derby, slated on July 27 and 28, starts today, according to promoters Lito Orbeta, Rudy Salud and William Co of the 49'ers Sports and Amusement Corp.

Early start for SJC 'Rambulan'

DUE TO THE BIG NUMBER OF QUALIFIERS, THE "Rambulan" 3-on-3 meet derby finals will start at 10 a.m. tomorrow at the San Juan Coliseum. Six days of competition produced 36 participants with four wins each and 15 others with 3 buzzers, according to Olympian Dindo Pumaren and Jose Mari Gonzales, who are chairman and vice chairman of SJCI rights will be held tomorrow. No other non-winners participants to date, but coaches consider these five to today so that the remaining 9 will have enough time. The finals is a seeded 9-round derby with P10,000 first prize will be hosted at the same venue by Cesar Sio Sandiego.

Breezy Es Twenty Six win in TC 3rd leg

By Manuel R. Carullo

GAMBOA, CAMITE—FIRST PICK ES Twenty Six ran with unmatched pace in the final three quarters yesterday to win the third leg of the 2007 Triple Crown series by five lengths over Golden Stallion.

Handled brilliantly by veteran Dominador Borbe, the bay filly by Principality out of Play it by Eat went with plenty to spare, clocking 2 minutes and 4.5 seconds (24', 23', 26', 30', 27') for 1,000 meters over a hard Silver Leaves track.

Golden Stallion under new Jonathan Hernandez, tried to make a late push rally to no avail, clocking in second, about two lengths down at longshot Honey D Tight, for secondary runner-up finish in the series.

Borbe raising Es Twenty Six behind speedball Alternate Delight before making their move when the nine-horse field hit the backstretch.

It was the seventh win in 15 outings for Es Twenty Six, who was second to the hard-luck Steel in the second leg. The P1.8 million prize was her biggest.

Always looking to finish in the money in the first leg, Es Twenty Six showed vast improvement to so short a time, that her second place finish behind Boots actually served as a warning to the rest of the field.

Golden Stallion, the crowd favorite of trend-setting 9th Metro out of Golden Double, was second place money of P375,000 for owner Hermie Esguerra, while Cherry of Light, under Armando Lumagui, took home P375,000 for his connections.

Wednesday's ridden by Jil Barcenas was fourth for P150,000.

Hot Warriors unmask Archers

From page A29

The scores

First Game

BCDA—Cawaling 41, Gaccuan 40, Fernandez 8, Amante 7, Bernard 6, Cervantes 6, Martinez 5, Ramos 5, Arellano 3, Reyes 3, Abalos 2, Ilarga 2, Galapon 0.

ADMIN 49—Estrella 20, Alejandro 8, Santos 6, Sandigan 4, Estrada 3, Cortez 3, Cañedo 2, Alvarez 1, Mendiola 1, Ocfemia 0, Manglicmot 0, Lumicao 0.

Second Game

HC 86—Lumicao 15, Ramirez 11, Ilagan 10, Lara 9, Martinez 8, Aquino 8, Arellano 6, Bernard 6, Abalos 5, Reyes 3, Ilagan 2, Rivera 2, Acuña 0, Barcenas 0, Tapia 0.

LATAG 79—Cruz 17, Mendoza 14, Tang 10, Mangubat 8, Villanueva 8, Cruz 6, Mendoza 6, Cruz 5, Ribbon 5, Lee 0.

Standings: Bill 4-0, Hill 3-1, Bill 2-2, Hill 1-3, Bill 0-4.

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Bull run seen to extend through 2008

PSEi forecast to hover near 5,000 mark

By Dakit L. Lucas and Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

THE LOCAL STOCK MARKET will likely continue its bull run into next year with the Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) continuing to post new all-time highs, officials of a major fund management firm said.

SSN Asset Management vice president Adelbert Legaspi predicted that the PSEi would hit anywhere between 4,500 and 5,000 by 2008.

As the home stretch of the company's forecast, this would give stocks on the PSEi an average upside of 20 percent from the index level of 3,748.38 as of last week's close.

Legaspi said his optimism was based on the fact that PSEi-based stocks continued to lag that of neighboring bourses in terms of price-earning multiples.

"The average price-earnings ratio for the Philippines is only 16.2 times, versus 38 times for the US, 22 times for Indonesia and 40 times for China," he said, quoting BPI's own earnings estimates for local firms.

Some conservative analysts, however, put the average price-earnings ratio of the local stock market at 19 times.

Legaspi said he expected the stock market to receive a boost from the country's strong economic fundamentals, including robust domestic output which BPI expects to grow by 6.4 percent this year.

Equity raised by listed compa-

BALA A1

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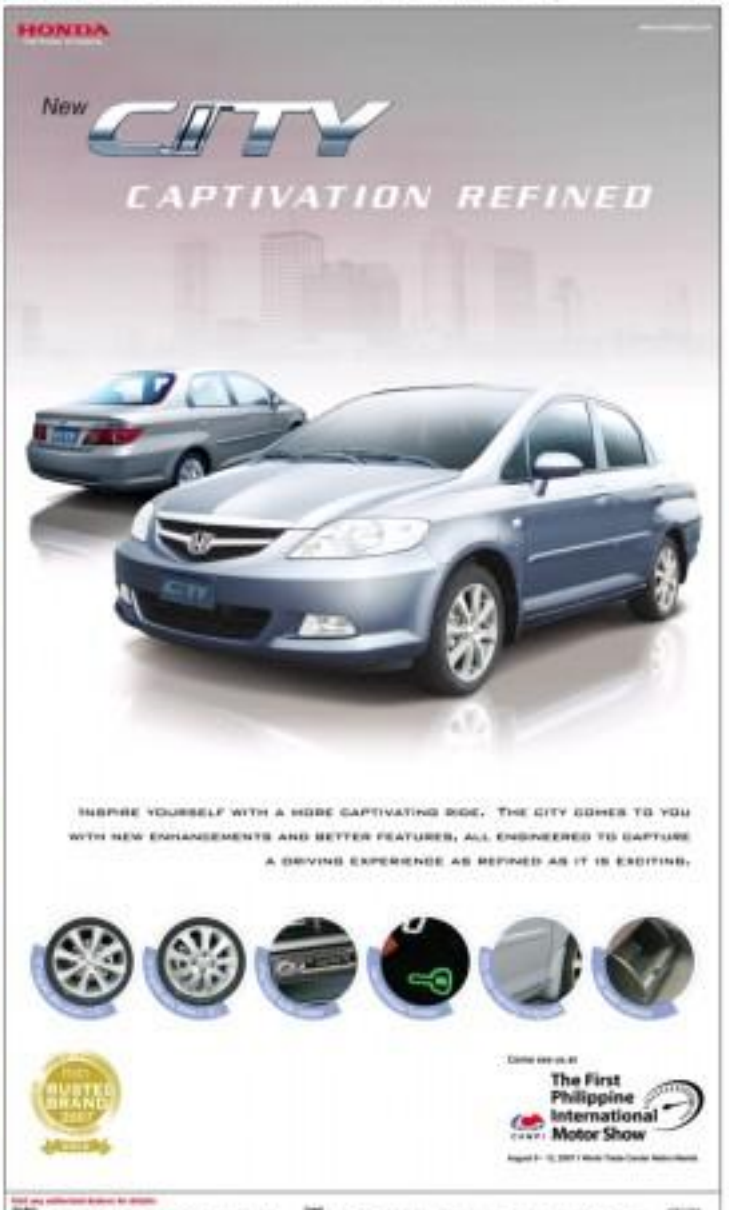
Cautious trading seen



DOF borrowed ₱252.95B in H1 to plug deficit

AS LOW AS ₱250 FAX REPAIR
OFFICE EQUIPMENTS REPAIR
ALL BRANDS, ALL MODELS
15%

By Michelle V. Ratins

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT BORROWED P252.950 billion in the first half to plug the deficit and settle maturing obligations, according to the Department of Finance.

The DOF said borrowings in the first half exceeded the target for the six months period of P162 billion by 1.6 percent.

Borrowings as of June were equivalent to 66 percent of the P382.911 billion that the government planned to borrow to cover its revenue shortfall this year.

The additional debt in the first half, however, was 16.3-percent less than the P302.5 billion incurred last year.

Data showed that the borrowings for the first half exceeded the target due to the government's strategy to pay more of its debt.

This is to take advantage of the strong peso, which helped trim its foreign currency denominated debt.

Data from the DOF showed that of the total borrowings in the first half, P99.051 billion was sourced from foreign lenders.

The higher share of P153.897 billion was composed of borrowings from the domestic capital market, mainly through the sale of Treasury bills and bonds.

Finance Undersecretary Robert Tan said the government was committed to trim its budget deficit according to schedule.

Under the program, the government should reduce its deficit to P65 billion this year from last year's P64.8 billion and balance its budget by 2008.

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NSO to use IP as growth measure

By Rommel W. Dantingo

THE NATIONAL Statistics Office is set to use data on intellectual property as one of the indicators of economic growth, according to chief of the Intellectual Property Office (IP Philippines).

Adrian S. Cristobal Jr., IP Philippines director general, said in an interview the NSO's decision was a result of his agency's efforts to "mainstream" the treatment of IP as an indispensable factor in business as well as academic circles and government.

"The NSO has requested data from IP Philippines," Cristobal said. "The use of IP data to determine the growth of an economy is a relatively new trend in the world, even in the most advanced countries."

Still, the Department said doing so was an important step, even for a developing country like the Philippines.

"In a sense, we can get an idea about the fallow investments as well as increase in production of goods by looking at the growth of trademark registration, for example," he said.

By trademark, Cristobal was referring to a visual sign meant to distinguish goods (trademark) and services (service mark), and even corporations (trade name) and internet sites (domain name) from one another.

He added that the authorization was difficult to explain so far, but that the relation between overall economic growth and increases in IP was under study.

Cristobal said applications for trademarks owned by locals now make up the majority of those filed, amounting to 57 percent of some 30,000 lodged since 2003.

"In the past decades, trademarks applications from local businesses made up just 30 percent of the total registrations," he said. "The common wisdom then was that intellectual property and its protection was just for the big guys, which were mostly foreigners."

He said the change in the view showed that more Filipinos were going into business and that an improvement with becoming more aware of the importance of IP.

Macroasia seen expanding operations in Clark ecozone

AIRPORT SERVICES company Macroasia Corp. is planning to put up a second hangar, kitchen and ground-handling facilities in Clark, Pampanga, in line with the expansion plans of aliner firm Philippine Airlines.

Macroasia president Joseph Chua said the company and its partner, Lufthansa and PAL, had filed an application with the provincial government of Pampanga for its planned expansion.

"This is to support the development of Clark," Chua said.

Talks are underway for the PAL plan to start operating in Clark as it bid to transform the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) into a premier airport.

PAL president Jaime Bautista said the transfer of major operations to the SBMA hangar property formerly occupied by Federal Express would take place "within the term of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo."

The maintenance cost was placed at $55 million.

Bautista said the property would be expanded eventually to 54 hectares depending on the outcome of the negotiations.

Bautista said PAL was in the final phase of negotiations for passenger ground handling and maintenance services in the Clark terminal.

Macroasia's net income for the first half rose by 6% percent to P158 million from P95 million in the same period last year on the. Revenues grew to P821 million from P455 million in the same period.

Elizabeth I. Lucson

Negotiators ...

From page B1

India feared of WTO negotiations dead end to provide the minister's input in to decide kind of real choose truck rules that are needed to create employment and achieve sustainable development."

The 1st signatories from the Philippines include Alliance of Progressive Labor, Bisa Buhain Inc, Labor Education and Research Network, Pakisama, Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement and Tulayan.

The groups denounce the Doha talks as paying little attention to peoples' rights and needs.

"Doha was supposed to be the 'development' round, but what has transpired since it started in 2001) has been quite the opposite," the letter said.

Saying that the current model of trade would not deliver on the stated goal of the Doha Round of promoting development and lifting millions of people out of poverty, the groups asked trade ministers to initiate a "two-year moratorium to provide the time and space necessary so as to think the model and process of global trade negotiations, and to stimulate public discussion and debate with governments and civil society about creating alternative trade regimes.

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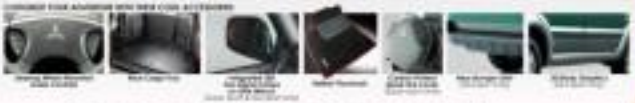

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BIR nets P9B from tax deals

By Michelle V. Rerta

THE GOVERNMENT COLLECTED CLOSE TO P9 billion in additional revenue from its implementation of its compromise programs with tax delinquents.

BIR Deputy Commissioner Nelson Aspi told reporters that the One-time Administrative Abeyance program (OTAP) and Online as additional revenues, while the Improved Voluntary Assessment Program (Ivap) contributed P2.349 billion.

The two programs, implemented last November, were part of the measures that the BIR believed would ease the tax collection shortfall it experienced since last year.

Under the abeyance program, embodied in Revenue Regulation No. 13-2006, interested tax delinquents, including those who have pending cases with the Department of Justice, the Court of Appeals, the Court of Tax Appeals and the Supreme Court, may have their cases withdrawn if they agree with the terms of the compromise offer.

Compromise with tax delinquents

Only those who have pending cases with the Presidential Commission on Good Government are not covered by the compromise offer.

Applicants for the abeyance program should have paid only the basic tax assessed, thus waiving all penalty fees, including interests and surcharges, to avail themselves of the program's benefits.

On the other hand, the Ivap gave delinquent taxpayers the opportunity to be the last priority in the BIR's tax audit so long as they settle their tax obligations and pay the required additional fees.

Ivap applied to internal revenue taxes covering taxable years ending Dec. 31, 2005, and fiscal year ending on any day not later than Jan. 30, 2006, and all prior years. Taxes covered include one-time transactions such as estate tax, donor's tax, capital gains tax, final withholding tax, expanded withholding tax and documentary stamp tax on the transfer, sale, exchange, or disposition of assets, among others.

The two programs have ended recently but Aspi said that's were no plans to extend them despite the additional revenues collected from their implementation.

He explained that it was no longer prudent to extend the two programs because of the tax amnesty bill that was signed into law last May 30. The law will take effect once its implementing rules and regulations come out as scheduled next month.

Under the amnesty law, tax delinquents may apply for an amnesty for any type of tax as that law's fallen overdue as long as they pay an amnesty fee. Authorities said the amnesty fees were made cheap to attract tax delinquents to come out in the open and settle their obligations with the BIR.

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Revisiting the Asian financial crisis

No Free Lunch

Cielito F. Habito

TEN YEARS AGO, EAST ASIA was hit by a financial storm that left behind much devastation and suffering in its wake. Many economies, but also much learning on the part of business, financial sector players and economic managers both within and beyond the region.

Minor brakes

It is often said that the Philippines largely outdistanced the worst effects of the Asian financial crisis, and got off lightly compared to its neighbors. Dramatic declines in gross domestic product (GDP) were suffered by Indonesia (-13.2 percent), Thailand (-10.4 percent), and Malaysia (-7.3 percent) in 1998. While these Asian neighbors of ours took a heavy beating, the Philippines suffered relatively milder losses, with GDP growth dipping only slightly to -0.5 percent. Meanwhile, the...pore and the new Asean members Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam managed to maintain positive-although subdued rates of growth.

That was a time when as Sheila Bair...

...Chinese wall that one economy was well-positioned to escape ahead of our erstwhile...expansion and economic...having been the region's biggest (the "tark man of Asia") for...ting. Prior to the crisis, we had been describing ourselves as a "tiger cub" economy ready to join the league of our more mature tiger neighbors. And for a while, we...on the immediate aftermath of the...to 1998, it did look like this tiger cub was poised to even assume the lead from its weary tiger neighbors.

Better prepared

Many of us used to explain the relatively light direct impact of the Asian financial crisis on our economy by saying we had already had protective walls our more home-grown financial crisis before (i.e. in the early 1980s). The nationalization of former tycoon Benigno Aquino in 1983 had thrown the country into a domestic financial crisis that was marked by massive capital flight and...ed into a protracted recession. Those had prompted the...ernment back down to undertake significant regulatory reforms designed to forestall similar financial processes in the future....and these paid off well for us by the time the region's wide crisis hit us in 1997-98.

We also did not have the same vulnerabilities in the real property and banking sectors that had led to Thailand's speculative ...dials. The crisis was catalyzed by the bursting of the real estate bubble in Thailand. There had been massive overbuilding of office and residential condominium...nits in Thailand in the 1990s. It seemed heavily by bank loans. When the property developers could no longer sell or lease these condominiums, they began defaulting on their bank loans one after another, leading in turn to the collapse of Thai banks, one of...

...ten another. And the rest is history, so to speak.

Segarita

But Philippine real property development was a totally different animal. Unlike Thailand, other Asian property developers who relied mainly on bank loans to construct their buildings, Filipino developers have always tended to finance their projects predominantly by pre-selling. It was not, and still is not uncommon for us to be offered condominium units for sale before the developers have even broken ground, or at least very early in construction, years before the building is expected to be ready for occupancy. Our property developers are more apparent (risk-averse) than their other Asian counterparts, and are thus better equipped than they will not end up with largely unsold and unoccupied buildings once these are completed.

At the same time, there have been strict limits on banks' lending to the real property sector since we had our own version of the Asian crisis in the 1980s. This had provided yet another safeguard against a property and real estate bubble-induced financial crisis by the late 1990s.

Laggard once more

Ten years hence, we are, sadly, lagging behind once again. In recent years, we've been media being among the slowest-growing economies in our region. We would have been the slowest last year, but that dubious honor (or rather infamy) went to Singapore's performance. Our neighbors fell rather sharply in 1998, but got back on their feet rather quickly as well, recaptured the initiative, and are currently somewhat merging performance. Meanwhile, here we plodded on at a measly but slower pace, hampered by complementary inferior infrastructure, political turmoil and bad governance. All these have been instrumental in...ly to...ment in the country, especially domestic investment. It is well known that our economy's growth has been driven primarily by OFW remittance dollars, private consumption, to...ment and government spending, and to grow in our neighboring economies. Most analysts see this problem with investment—I have begun to call it an investment crisis—as our biggest challenge now and in the years ahead.

We have seen this...this erstwhile tiger cub has clearly missed the opportunity we had then to seize the lead from our weary tiger neighbors—yet another in the seemingly unending line of missed opportunities for our country in past decades. It is high time we...started to now feel—but are we and our leaders up to the challenge?

Comments welcome at chabito@surfsan.com.ph.

Bull run seen to extend ...

From page B1

...ues mainly through inflows on offerings and stock rights issuances. So far, it has raised P9.9 billion in the first half from P15.3 billion a year ago.

Documents from the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) showed a slack in equity funds raised public offerings (IPOs) and private placements during the period.

PSE president Hamon Lim said that IPOs would pick up dramatically in the coming months with...big names in the pipeline. The rally does not yet include proposed offers by GMA Network Inc., Hero Land, Pepsi-Cola Philippines, Cebu Pacific and Globe...which are either listing this week or announced during the year.

"So much...in the PSE remains confident that total proceeds this year from various capital-raising activities will hit a new all-time high, based on IPOs we have in the pipeline," Lim added.

Based on PSE figures, proceeds from two IPOs in the first half this year amounted to P2.91 billion or 67.4 percent lower than the P8.939 billion a year ago. Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. of the Ongpin...pines completed a P2.83 billion sale of its primary shares, while Manila Online Systems Corp. conducted its own sale of P164.75 million worth of primary shares to...Bank.

Proceeds from the follow-up offerings of...two companies were up by 134.4 percent to P28.98 billion in the first half from P14.44 billion a year earlier. The follow-on offerings allowed Filinvest Land Inc. to raise P5.82 billion; Security Bank Corporation, P5.07 billion; United Bank, P5.04 billion, and Alliance Global Group Inc. (AGI), P3.15 billion.

Equity from stock rights offerings hit P15.9 billion from January to June, or 28 times bigger than the P571.96 million recorded for the same period last year. The companies that conducted the rights offerings include Megaworld Corp. (P13.79 billion); SM Corp. (P5.85 billion); AGI (P1.51 billion); and Semirara Resources Philippines Inc. (P400.86 million).

HOUSING UPDATE:

BUILDING A NEW PHILIPPINES

Securing Progress Through Shelter

Under President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's leadership, the government housing sector continued to gain significant ground in the war against homelessness. In 2006, it carried out various programs that resulted in concrete improvements in the lives of many Filipinos, especially the poor. To thousands of families, this meant the realization of the life-long dream of shelter security, a better life away from the slums, or a chance to afford their own home for the first time. With continuing reforms aimed at improving the delivery of housing benefits and enhancing the participation of the private sector, housing continues to secure the progress of Filipino families and the entire nation.

DIRECT HOUSING PROVISION – 130,000 families provided security of tenure in 2006 and the first half of 2007

- **Land Reform Program** – About 20,000 informal settler families in 2006 given secured tenure by declaring over 462 hectares of land as housing sites for the disposition to its occupants. In the first half of 2007, some 10,148 of families living on proclaimed government lands received Free Certificate of Lot Entitlement/Lot Award (CELAs).

- **Railway Relocation** – Since clearing and relocation operations in the Northrail segment began in 2002, some 22,974 families have moved to their new homes—completing the opening of the right-of-way for the 37-kilometer stretch of railway from Metro Manila to Bulacan. Of this number, 15,504 families were from Northrail. The remaining 7,558 units were for the Southrail Namayan site, part of the rehabilitation and modernization plan of the PNR commuter line from Caloocan to Calamba. A total of 12,249 Southrail families have been relocated to various resettlement sites since 2004. Other programs such as slum upgrading, development of sites and services, construction of core housing and medium rise housing benefited 16,063 more families since 2006.

- **Community Mortgage Program** – Since 2006, a total of 10,146 underprivileged families, each residing on dilapidated areas benefited from CMP by granting P1.03 billion in total loans to their community associations. These loans enabled them to purchase the privately-owned properties that they have been occupying.

- **Formal Sector Housing** – In 2006, the Pag-IBIG Fund released over P18 billion in housing loans for the construction or purchase of 32,938 units. For the first five months of 2007, its housing loans have already reached P6.6 billion. To make housing even more affordable to low- and middle-income earners, the Pag-IBIG Fund further reduced its interest rates—now only 6% for loans up to P300,000 and 7% for loans above P300,000 up to P750,000. Along with the extension of loan terms up to a maximum of 30 years, this translates to lower monthly amortizations. Other government financial institutions also continue to grant housing loans to government and private sector employees. Since 2006, these institutions granted housing assistance to 634 borrowers.

INDIRECT HOUSING PROVISION

- **Housing Guaranty Provision** – For 2006 up to the first half of 2007, the Home Guaranty Corporation provided retail and developmental guarantee on total loans of P5.7 billion for 14,612 beneficiaries.

- **Redefinition of HL packages** – The Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council adjusted the price ceilings of housing loan packages. Low Cost Housing Level, previously set at P300,000 to P500,000, has been revised to P500,000 to P1.00 million. Level 2 now ranges from over P1.25 up to P1.5 million, and medium cost housing from P2 million up to P4 million. The adjustments allowed private developers to avail of higher loan amounts and guaranty covers to develop more housing projects, and enable them to comply with the 20% subsidized housing requirement.

- **Issuance of Licenses to Sell** – In 2006 and the first half of 2007, the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board issued licenses to sell to developers representing 167,000 new housing units.

- **Housing Construction** – From January 2006 to June 2007, the housing sector is estimated to have generated a total of 883,895 jobs in housing construction.

PABAHAY TUNGO SA MAUNLAD NA BUHAY

THE GOVERNMENT HOUSING PROGRAM

Since 2001...

- 100 Proclamations and Executive Orders signed providing security of tenure to 195,475 families
- 77,964 families empowered to own property through the Community Mortgage Program
- 30,940 families relocated from Northrail and 8,003 families from Southrail
- 125,603 families given assistance through various other direct housing provision programs
- 323,303 housing units funded by Pag-IBIG Fund, SSS, DBP, LBP and GSIS
- Access to affordable housing expanded with the reduction of interest rates, lower amortization and longer repayment period
- Retail and developmental guaranty provided for 170,757 housing units
- 869,132 licenses to sell issued

TEAM PINOY!
IKAW AT GOBYERNO, SAMA-SAMA SA PAG-ASENSO

Wellex teams up with China firm for oil, mining ventures

By Elizabeth Sánchez-Lacsa

GOCHANGHUN oil exploration and mining firm Wellex Petroleum Corp. said it has signed a partnership with a subsidiary of China National Chemical Corp. (Sinochem), one of China's biggest oil companies, to venture into oil and mining activities in the Philippines.

Wellex Petroleum Chairman and executive vice president of Wellex Petroleum, told the business that Southern's PRC Petrochemical, a subsidiary of Sinopec based in Guangdong province in China, has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Wellex Group to bid for the government's oil concessions in Palawan and Mindoro.

The bid was submitted to the Department of Energy about two months ago. The result has yet to be released.

Gochanghun added that Wellex planned to form a joint venture firm with its Chinese partner to go into drilling exploration possibly for nickel, copper, manganese, coal and chromite. Both partners are currently in the process of applying for exploration permits in possible mine sites such as Palawan and Mindoro.

"The Wellex Group is positive this will help our economy because Sinopec is a huge company. The mining industry is booming. Wellex Petroleum is mandated to look for mining and oil industry or high-growth investment areas. We are very happy that Wellex Petroleum will push forward with the partnership. This is huge," Gochanghun said.

Gochanghun also said that its 19-year-old Wellex Petroleum is currently studying plans of an initial public offering (IPO) of its oil and mining projects are "up and running."

"The Chinese partner is bullish on the area and the Philippine stock market and the economy," he added.

Sinopec, which is controlled by the Chinese government, is listed on the Hong Kong, New York, London and Shanghai stock exchanges. It is an integrated energy and chemical company.

iRemit sets sight on IPO this year

iREMIT, THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST FILIPINO-owned, non-bank remittance company, is considering an initial public offering (IPO) toward the last quarter of this year.

It has named Investment house First Metro Investment Corp. as financial adviser, issue manager and underwriter for the IPO.

The company did not provide details of the planned IPO.

The company's board has approved an increase in the company's capital to P500 million from P265 million to finance its ongoing expansion. Proceeds of the IPO will be used to open new branches and expand to new territories as well as to finance its working capital requirements to meet the increasing volume of remittances.

Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed total overseas Filipino worker (OFW) remittances reached $12.6 billion in 2006, or up 20 percent from $10.7 billion recorded in 2005. The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) said there were about 1.01 million OFWs in 2006, translating to a year-on-year growth of 10.5 percent. As of May, OFW remittances have exceeded the $5 billion mark for the 11th straight month. The BSP expects total remittances in 2007 to hit $14.6 billion.

In the next few months, iRemit will intensify strategic marketing efforts and initiatives in the Philippines with a high density of Filipinos such as Hong Kong, Europe and Asia Pacific.

Growing network

Established in 2001, iRemit now boasts a growing network in 22 countries across North America, Europe, Australia, Asia, the Pacific Islet, and the Middle East, with 596 outlets, associates and agents worldwide, including more than 2,000 pay-out points throughout the Philippines.

In a span of six years, iRemit had a compounded average annual growth rate of 53 percent in terms of revenue.

iRemit is also a collaborative partner of the Social Security System (SSS), Pag-IBIG and PhilHealth to remit payments from OFWs. It is likewise the biggest remittance issuer of Visa Debit Card to the Philippines. Elizabeth Sánchez-Lacsa

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INFOTECH

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Well rounded PDA phone comes with a 'Curve'

By Rina T. Chikiamco

JUST MONTHS AFTER the release of Blackberry's 8800, a sexier PDA phone is in the market, launched by Blackberry maker Research In Motion via Globe Telecom Inc.

The Blackberry Curve, also known as the 8310, is not particularly curvaceous, but it combines best-of-breed features with a full QWERTY keyboard in a sleek, lightweight body.

It is the smallest full QWERTY Blackberry, being 60 mm wide, 107 mm thick, and 15.3 mm high. It is also the lightest at 113 grams. The outer edges also have a soft-touch finish to give it a rubbery texture, making it easier to grip.

Looking for new features? Be reassured that the Blackberry Curve is not much different from the 8800, but the latter is more the business phone, with no camera. The 8800 is also larger and heavier, measuring 66 mm by 14 mm by 114 mm, and weighing 114 grams.

For the work-life focus of the Curve, the upgraded 2-megapixel camera is certainly helpful, as is the new quick-launch feature for emails.

The Curve has a light-sensing technology that automatically adjusts the backlighting of the screen so stuff is brightened, whether the user is indoors or outdoors. The screen themes and fonts may be customized.

Like all BlackBerry models, the Curve lacks a numeric keypad, but the trackball navigator and context buttons are enough. There are no function, orange, and end/power buttons beneath the screen. On the right side rests a volume control and a launch button that, by default mode, activates the camera. On the left side is a mini-USB port, a programmable convenience button, a 2.5 mm headset jack that works with Motorola-style headphones. On top is a mute button.

For entertainment, a media player supports various formats. For caller ID purposes, you can assign a photo to a contact and one of 43 polyphonic ring tones. The Curve also supports MP3 and WMA ring tones.

The camera lens, flash and self-portrait mirror are on the back of the device, along with the microSD slot. No video-recording here, but you do get a zoom and flash.

As for voice features, the quad-band (GSM 850/900/1800/1900; EDGE) offers crisp sound quality with low background noise and adjustable volume for noisy environments.

Aside from the usual organizational tools such as the calendar and alarm, there is a BlackBerry Maps application that can give you-based driving directions.

The Blackberry Curve also swerved to the full QWERTY keyboard styles found on the 8700g and 8700c, which means more spacer between buttons for easy typing.

One drawback the Curve seems is that there is no Wi-Fi and 3G. There is GPRS and EDGE instead. And there is no GPS system, unlike the 8800, although this does not make much of a difference in the Philippines because GPS is not yet available here anyway.

Meanwhile, an integrated Bluetooth allows users to add other functions via a Bluetooth GPS unit, wireless headsets, or hands-free kits.

Hardcore business users may be better off keeping their 8800 with its integrated GPS functionality and lack of a camera, which are banned in high-security workplaces.

For consumers and mobile professionals, the BlackBerry Curve is a beautifully designed and well-rounded device that delivers great email functionality, a little multimedia fun and solid performance.

How to market your small business online

FOR TEMPO, SMALL BUSINESSES have relied on the magic of word-of-mouth customer testimonials. Yes, such young Filipinos lately running into entrepreneurs, too many small companies are creating one mouth hears that customers now find it hard to tell apart one from the other.

Consider these facts: small and medium enterprises (SMEs) make up 99.4 percent of the Philippine business sector, generating nearly 70 percent of the jobs available locally and contributing more than 30 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

Now consider the statistic: most SMEs spread the word of-mouth through advertisements, direct mail, flyers, calling cards, local displays in exhibits and conventions, and merchandising, like T-shirts and bumper stickers.

Level playing field

"With the onslaught of new competitions and a tougher operating environment, you can't expect to compete as a small business today without using an arsenal of marketing tools," says Jesus B. delos Reyes, eCommerce manager of Yehey.com, one of the leading Filipino Internet portals.

Web interest usage growing annually by an average of 42 percent in the past five years, the World Wide Web now becomes only common for the local papaya soup dealer, the lumber coffee supplier or the flower farmer who used to merely ply their trade down town and rely on their satisfied customers to get the word out that their business exists.

Of the SMEs that participated in a 2004 eCNation survey, 56 percent said they were able to grow their business through Web websites, while 49 percent said they were able to use down costs with an online presence.

"Customers want to see you online for simple reasons: to get pricing information, see samples of your work, request more information, buy something from you, or just to see whether you have what they're looking for," says delos Reyes.

He adds websites can also level the playing field, as even the smallest business could compete effectively with larger firms.

Yehey!'s e-Commerce manager offers these tips for SMEs to be noticed online:

▲ K.I.S.S. (keep it simple, sweetheart). seven videos you see online.

Once potential customers open your website, you have only 5 to 8 seconds to convince them to keep on clicking. They should, in that fleeting moment, know from your front line name, selling text and visuals what products or services you offer and if it answers their needs.

"We already have their foot in the door when they get to see your site," delos Reyes says. "There's not already a 'yes,' but a 'maybe.' Get to the point. Keep it simple."

Get them hooked

▲ After you K.I.S.S., engage.

Once you successfully get your potential customer into the door, show them the rest of the house and make them feel at home. Get them to interact with your website, hooking you more information. "When people visit your website for the first time, follow up immediately. Once they feel welcomed and at ease with your site, get them hooked so they will be frequent visitors.

▲ Be constantly present.

This relationship is not the absolute-sales-at-the-instant-gratification type. Your potential customer already found out you exist, now you must cater not to be indignant to the arbitrary, seemingly or affiliate for sales, merchandising or advertising).

Your site should appear high on search engines' results pages. Yehey! has an exclusive partnership with Google on keywords and terms so your site could appear higher up on Google Ad words. This search engine marketing tool is part of the search design and programming package Yehey! offers its customers.

▲ Don't leave them on the other roadway.

So you got them engaged, hooked, and eating to establish a customer relationship with you online. Now it's time to pay.

Altar of e-commerce

Nothing is more frustrating than getting them to the altar of e-commerce and having them waiting for you to email them the pricing and shipping information. Also, don't force an online store that makes it easy for your customers to place an order, send the payment and get them goods.

One solution is through Yehey!'s Kuhan (http://kuhan.com.ph), an online payment gateway system that enables SMEs to accept customer payment through ATM, credit card or electronic cash modes such as Globe G-Cash.

Using Kuhan is easy: an online buyer simply clicks on the Kuhan payment button on the website, and gets redirected to the SSL/SAS website interface with a merchant template. After a user-form is completed, a payment option is made and transaction is processed in real time.

Yehey! developed Kuhan to meet the e-commerce needs of SMEs in the country, aside from being one of the top three most viewed Filipino sites. Yehey! is also being positioned as an online marketing solutions firm.

Handling data in this digitized day and age

By Raquel P. Ramos

THE INTERNET OR THE WORLDWIDE WEB has been changing and influencing the way people value, view, store, use, and share information, particularly digital or software data.

The Internet has spawned the current trend referred to as the digital explosion of data, wherein digital content, such as a photograph, video, or music is copied and sent. Stored to other digital media a thousand, even a million, times over.

Jeremy Tan of Millennium Company Tech Corp., distributor of Imation hard drives in the country, says it's quite common to find a person carrying a digital data storage device, such as memory cards, USB flash drives and audio hard disks.

And this person, according to Tan, has the habit of mindlessly clearing the contents of his storage device to other people through the Internet.

"When you take a photo with a digital camera, that photo is stored to the memory card," Tan says. "You transfer that photo to your computer and, when you go online, you email it to friends and family, or upload it to Friendster or other photo websites. Friends and family download that photo and email it to other people. That photo, which used to be a single entity, has multiplied exponentially to a short span of time and it has been stored in other data storage (devices) as well."

This trend in content mobility and multiplication is reflected in a study conducted by Seagate in the United States, which sought to determine how people view and use digital information.

Eighty-one percent surveyed say they're more likely to download and store content now than a year ago. Forty-five percent of American households with children under 18 store old download music. While 37 percent of them surveyed agree that content and files are more worthy than the computers which store them.

"Truly, content has become the center of the digital world," says Tan.

He adds that the current consumer craze for digital devices, MP3s, digital cameras, laptops and notebooks, high-speed Internet, cell-phones, wireless solutions, and digital camcorders all have one thing in common—digital content.

"Consumers now have a greater need for mobile data storage solutions, data security, and portability," Tan explains further.

Seagate, which is a name already associated with content and storage solutions, has launched a family of mobile storage devices that addresses the need of consumers for digital content sharing and data mobility.

Seagate's FreeAgent Go devices are large capacity, portable storage devices that have integrated content management software aiding users in duplicating and moving digital content with ease to multiple locations, such as email, iPod, photo websites, a flash drive or PC.

PC and Mac compatible FreeAgent Go devices come in three variations:

FreeAgent Go, which comes in a maximum space of 750 gigabytes, is for heavy digital content users. It has all the digital connection interfaces, such as dual FireWire 400, eSATA, and combo USB 2.0 ports.

FreeAgent Desktop Drive is for the average digital content user.

FreeAgent Go, which comes in a small black brushed aluminum case but sits atop a capacity of 500 gigabytes, is ideal for students and business professionals.

As the digital generation continually evolves and consumers increasing amounts of digital content, consumers are desiring user-friendly storage solutions that provide supreme, anywhere access to match their on-the-go lifestyles, Tan says.

Exist drums up local support for open source

CONCERNED THAT THE HIGH INTEREST in open source (OS) software developments in the Philippines is not translating into a surge in output, local company Exist Global has teamed up with the Bandung Apache Software Foundation and Eclipse Foundation to bring Filipinos up to speed with Asia-wide efforts.

The industry leaders will present OS trends and opportunities at the inaugural OS Summit Asia to be held at the Le Meridien in Jakarta, Hong Kong's leading regular Cyberport IT development zone from Nov. 26 to 28.

Research firm Evans Data Corp. (www.evansdata.com) said the number of developers using Open Source software in Asia-Pacific is projected by 68 percent over the next three years. The popularity of the Linux operating system has also boosted in recent years, providing the region's developing countries with a low-cost robust alternative to leading commercial operating systems.

However, in sharp contrast, OS developments from the Philippines and other Asian countries only increased by five percent.

"As data moves to become the largest resource of Open Source technologies, it is increasingly important that the region is able to experience the Open Source community process in action," said Winston Damarillo, an executive producer of the OS Summit. "We are excited to ... demonstrate this in the context of the collaboration between Eclipse and Apache. Local communities and associations have been a tremendous help in supporting us and providing the best possible venue to launch this initiative."

OS Summit Asia will offer unique educational opportunities with hands-on training, competitively oriented general sessions, and a small number of invited speakers that address new technologies, development methods, business and marketing, and licensing issues in Open Source software.

Damarillo said delegate registrations for the conference will open by the end of July.

"We hope that, by showcasing the combined communities behind Eclipse and Apache, we will be able to cultivate a stronger presence for Open Source in the region," said Executive Eclipse Foundation, president of The Apache Software Foundation.

Mike Milinkovich, executive director of the Eclipse Foundation also said that the event "is not just about technology."

"It's about the community and vision and inevitability of Open Source—a movement that creates and maintains a wealth of innovation and ideas," Milinkovich added. "Across Asia, interest in Open Source is building. The timing of this event is perfect to harness and build on that interest."

Rina T. Chikiamco

What, no signal? Coverage problem far from licked

By Abigail L. Ho

IT HAS PROBABLY HAPPENED TO THE company's 50 million mobile phone subscribers at least once in their lives.

When the elevator door closes, when you enter a restroom in a mall, when you emerge in a room that is far from the main entrance of a building—you lose your cellular phone signal.

Local operators Smart Communications Inc., Globe Telecom Inc. and Sun Cellular have all been trying to address this problem over the years by installing pico cells—or small base stations—in strategic parts of buildings.

But the problem still persists.

According to a recent report from research firm Analysys, operators need to further step up their efforts to improve indoor coverage, particularly with the impending rollout of services, such as mobile TV.

"Increasing usage of mobile voice and data services indoors suggests that indoor services are set to become a key area of competition for the wireless industry," said report co-author Mark Heath.

"Despite poor in-building coverage, the number of mobile users that make cellular calls at home is increasing," Heath added. "Early trials have shown that homes and offices are the two most popular locations for using mobile TV services."

If operators wanted to not only boost the usage of voice services, but also encourage the use of services such as mobile TV where they are rolled out, experts co-author Mahesh Tejwani said cellular phone firms should start investing more heavily in the provision of indoor cellular coverage.

The use of the cellular phone beyond voice and text messaging to store data applications would spur the need for better indoor coverage, he said.

"Fixed broadband and cellular technologies will fulfill complementary roles within homes and offices," Tejwani explained. "This will drive mobile operators to diversify their operations to include fixed as well as mobile services. Furthermore, mobile operators will be forced to invest heavily in the provision of indoor cellular coverage."

This would be one of the best ways for operators to achieve average revenue per user (ARPU) growth because this would boost the use of mobile voice telephony and non-voice services, such as mobile TV and fixed broadband, he added.

Petronas pursues prospect

By Abigail L. Ho

MALAYSIAN FIRM PETRONAS Carigali Overseas Sdn Bhd will be drilling an exploration well off Mindoro next month.

Senior Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said Petronas' drilling rig was on its way to the country and should be ready to drill by August.

Petronas holds an 85-percent stake in Service Contract 47, followed by PRIDE Exploration Corp. with 13.4 percent and Basic Petroleum Inc. at 0.2 percent.

The SC 47 consortium had said an exploration well would be drilled within the Ruma Prospect, formerly Chevy Prospect, off Mindoro.

The prospect will, or drains 1, would be drilled to a depth of 3,000 meters.

The prospect is estimated to have 126 million barrels of oil.

The cost of the drilling would be shouldered entirely by Petronas.

SC 47 covers an almost 1.3 million hectare area in offshore Mindoro, which contains the Tablas and Cherry, now Ruma, prospects.

The drilling project is worth at least $25 million.

Apart from Petronas, Lotilla said Australia's Mako Petroleum Ltd. would also start drilling production wells at the Galoc field covered by SC 14C.

"The rig should be here by next month, so drilling should start soon," he said.

Galoc Production Co. (GPC), which operates SC 14C, is scheduled to drill two production wells between August and October. This will entail an investment of $86.4 million.

GPC owns 58.29 percent of SC 14, while it is the second biggest shareholder with a 22.39-percent stake.

Mako deputy managing director Jeanne Williams earlier said Mako had earmarked $29 million this year for the development of the Galoc oil field.

BUSINESS

Aboitiz Power eyes more power distribution deals with ecozones

By Abigail L. Ho

IN A BID TO FURTHER EXPAND its power distribution business, listed firm Aboitiz Power Corp. is eyeing the acquisition of private distribution utilities and more power-distribution deals with the country's economic zones.

According to the company, it already has agreements to acquire 100 percent of Mactan Enezone Corp. and 88 percent of Bohol-based Electrotec Corp., both in Cebu.

Aboitiz Power is also considering entering into agreements to manage the distribution systems in special economic zones, such as the Mactan Economic Zone 1 and the Bataan Economic Zone.

"The company's power distribution portfolio includes Visayan Electric Co. Inc. (Veco)—the second largest distribution utility in the country, Davao Light and Power Co. Inc. (DLPC), Cebu Electric Corp. and San Fernando Electric Light and Power Co. Inc. (SFELAPCO).

As of March, Veco had 912.3 kilometers of 69-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines and 13 substations for stepping down high-voltage power to medium voltages. It also has 3,494 km of distribution lines and 86,355 distribution transformers.

DLPC has 105.30 km of 69-kV and 138-kV subtransmission lines, 26 substations, 113,711 distribution transformers and 5,481 km of distribution lines.

CLPC's network includes 11 km of 69-kV subtransmission lines, three substations, 217.92 km of distribution lines and 5,342 distribution transformers.

Aboitiz Power operates through Cebu Electric Corp. (CEC), transmission lines, 69 substations, 1,161 distribution transformers and 1,360 km of distribution lines.

The distribution utility serves the Cebu Ray Overport Zone.

As of end-March, SFELAPCO had 24.97 km of 69-kV subtransmission lines, two substations, 329.56 km of distribution lines and 5,261 distribution transformers.

BIR expects full payment of banks' DST liabilities

Stint in local gov't prepared Atienza for new post, miners say

THE CHAMBER OF MINES OF THE PHILIPPINES welcomes the appointment of former Manila Mayor Lito Atienza to the top post at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Chamber president Benjamin Philip G. Romualdez said Atienza's experience as a local government official had prepared him for the position. The DENR, he said, has a lot of dealings with local government units in connection with the issuance of mining permits.

"I would be remiss if I do not mention my fellow Kampampangan's (Atienza's)

BUSINESS Monday

Elite boon, bane to RP growth

By Ronnel W. Domingo

DESPITE RALLIED efforts from collaborating government agencies and business groups, the Philippines slid yet again in international benchmarks based on competitiveness and ease of doing business.

In the World Competitiveness Yearbook 2007—which the Switzerland-based Institute for Management Development released last May—the Philippines was ranked 45th among 55 economies, three notches down from 2006 rankings.

Antony L. Gatchalian, a lawyer specializing in international trade law, believes the reason for the lower ranking was because the economy continued to be the playing ground of oligarchs.

"The roots of our problems can be found in the names published in the front pages of recent days, names which have continuously appeared in our history books of people said to be 'leading' our country," Gatchalian said.

Gatchalian, who also teaches at the Ateneo de Manila University, said the country could fare well in a globalized economy through "real, sincere and sustained trade liberalization, along with tariff relaxation", rather than

TRYdeca1

GOINGS-ON

Integreon ranked leading global outsourcing provider

INTEGREON MANAGED SOLUTIONS INC., a global leader in low-price, legal and financial services business process outsourcing, was named the world's leading provider of research and analytics outsourcing for the second year running and the world's leading provider of legal document outsourcing for the fourth consecutive year in the fourth annual Global Book of Outsourcing, the Bronze Allison Group's prestigious annual survey of outsourcing vendors and advisors.

The company also ranked number two worldwide in the rapidly emerging full-legal process outsourcing (LPO) category.

Integreon was also ranked among the top 50 global outsourcing providers, which places the company at the top two percent of all 2,000 plus vendors surveyed.

Results published in the survey were compiled using information received from more than 33,000 global outsourcing buyers, decision makers, analysts, employees and customers.

The Global Book of Outsourcing (White Publishers) is an international business book and outsourcing resource maintained by co-authors Doug Bronze and Geoff Wilson of the Bronze Allison Group.

Integreon's customers include six of the 10 largest global investment banks, two of the three largest global law firms, many Fortune 500 and FTSE 100 corporations and several top-tier private equity firms and hedge funds. Apax Corp.'s APV Holding company, Citrix Systems Inc. is the majority investor in Integreon.

Elite boon, bane to RP growth

During more years under the rule of the oligarchs.

To stress his point, he pointed to an article published in the July 23 issue of Newsweek magazine—familiarly referred "Tan Thar Ibad"—which discusses how crony capitalism was stunting economic growth in Southeast Asia.

"The recently overhauled elections was partisan in that a bunch of people known more for their impunity than for their ability have been elected to high office, helped in no small part by their surnames," the lawyer said.

"It is time the minority stop defecating to people who get by on their fathers' or grandfathers' works so as to steer likely their battle for corruption," he added.

"In this day and age, we deserve a meritocracy and not some second-class aristocracy," Enrile said.

However, Bobby tee M. Manaseran, executive director of the ADB Japan Institute of Management Policy Center, disagreed, saying there were different groups among the oligarchs.

"Some of them are content to increasing their share of the pie while others want to enlarge the pie," Macaraeg said. "It is this kind of oligarchy... along with their economic and environment—that we want to have more of."

In a joint briefing with Cesar E. Buenaventura, who is cochair of the National Competitiveness Council representing the private sector, Macaraeg talked about the need to push further efforts to improve the country's standing as a favored location for investments.

"The factors underlying the Philippines' performance are such that they have to be addressed and sustained over the long haul," Macaraeg said.

"It will take several years of sustaining work and dogged determination before we are able to vault into the top league," he added.

The ADB Policy Center has been pushing for initiatives to enhance the country's competitiveness, including the evaluation of transaction costs, programming key infrastructure projects, improving the regulatory framework and addressing gaps between education and skills.

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Responding to emergent global challenges

THE TITLE OF TODAY'S MAPPING COLUMN is the theme of the 6th Management Association of the Philippines International CEO Conference which will be held at the Makati Shangri-La on October 3 to 5, 2007.

The conference organizers have come to realize that the issues that are foremost in the minds of today's business leaders are twofold. One, changing expectations among corporate stakeholders that reflect a heightened concern for environmental and social issues, and two, increased complexity of doing business as a result of globalization and greater inter-connectivity in the world of business.

Expressing concern for climate change and widespread poverty has become de rigueur in most of the corporate world.

By and large, however, corporate response to these pressing issues of the day have taken the form of peripheral events elaborately slotted being good corporate citizens and socially responsible businesses, as well as the usual photo-op sessions and press releases intended to convey active involvement in community affairs.

Such role value CEOs say behind the lectern or luxury club speeches are a far cry from what actually happens on the ground.

While corporate philanthropy and gift giving are legitimate ways by which business organizations can enhance their public image, the greater challenge to business leaders the world over is how to factor such corporate generosity into their long run strategies for maximizing shareholder value.

Making profits, after all, remains to be the ultimate concern of any business organization.

By shifting its strategic focus to alternative sources of energy, Shell isn't just being environment friendly, it is merely pursuing a strategy for its long-term sustainability by betting on a scenario of increased dependence on methanol/fuels in the future.

By adopting fuel-efficient technologies, firms are not as much as showing their concern for the survival of our increasingly carbon-choked planet as they are just being cost effective.

Selling cancer cures at lower prices to low-income consumers is not just being generous, it is a revenue-generating strategy. Putting it in another way, being a socially responsible corporation IS good strategy.

Today's world of business has three defining characteristics. High-intensity inter-connectivity, knowledge-based economies and technologies and crisis-creation on a global scale.

In this emergent business environment, competitive strategies as we know them are fast giving way to strategies of collaboration and information sharing.

Progressive managers everywhere are beginning to realize that creating economic value is no longer possible by depending exclusively on one's "core competencies."

Realizing that, they cannot do so on their own, such rivals Google and Microsoft have recently teamed up with other outfits in developing Web-based software.

Novartis, Oil and P&G have begun dismantling their huge R&D organizations and depending more and more on skills and knowledge that are outsourced from all over the globe.

Doing business under Web 2.0 rules requires a totally different approach to management from those that are have long been accustomed to.

Understandably, this is something that most managers find uncomfortable with.

The forthcoming MAP CEO conference will provide ample opportunity for the speakers and participants to bring together their disparate but complementary experiences and insights in dealing with these and the many other issues that confront today's corporate leaders.

It will go a long way in lessening the level of unease and anxiety in dealing with today's emergent global challenges.

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is an active academic and a knowledge management consultant. He is the author of the book "DRIVEN BARTERING: Why Today's Business Models Fail to Deliver." Feedback at nicopo@globelines.com.ph.)

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Nicerio S. Poblador

Being socially responsible IS good business strategy

Communities cash ...

From page B-1

government.

The tourism program not only helped preserve the fish-rare coral of towering Bimbali Islets and boasting has also allowed the T'boli women to earn as much as P9 to 40 percent more from the sale of their products to foreign and local tourists.

The number of tourists has increased from 69,792 in 2005 to as many as 349,296 last year, which led resort owners to push their profits and local tour guides to earn an additional P300 to P500 a trip.

Tourists come to this lake, running through South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat, dubbed the Summer Capital of Southern Mindanao, to visit the T'boli tribe in their colorful traditional attires, tour the lake, view the coral waterfalls and natural springs, and hopefully catch a glimpse of the elusive Philippine eagle.

Calibang said that, under the ecotourism program, locals were trained to be tour guides, and the T'bolis were taught to produce a wider variety of goods to suit the tourists' taste.

But more importantly their environmental awareness was heightened because they realize that they must preserve the natural beauty of Lake Sebu, one of the most important watersheds and as the source of the water to keep attracting tourists to visit.

The income in most visitor-packing, dynamite-fishing and uncontrolled operation of fish pens—all in the name of preserving the environment and their new source of livelihood.

Calibang added that the T'bolis take more pride in their culture and appreciate better the beauty of their habitat.

El Nido, Palawan

El Nido in northern Palawan does not lack for reasons...many of them among the richest here in the Philippines and abroad—because of its marine resources.

It is the stunning array of these species of exotic, dispersed sea urchin, the healthy ground of whales, dolphins and dugong, and home to an estimated 800 species of fish and more than 100 species of coral.

The rapid 4.6 percent growth of the population, however, is putting pressure on the islands ecosystem and threatening the tourism industry which sustains the economy of the island.

This is where the El Nido Foundation comes in through its community-based resource management program that seeks the community involved in preserving the environment while earning from the tourism industry.

The foundation, for instance, has trained some women in the community to produce native bags and slippers, which are then sold to the high-end "Eco Exotic and Chic" boutiques.

The others, on the other hand, also get training in food and beverage, housekeeping and kitchen services and massage therapy to prepare them for possible employment at the resorts and the local tourism office.

El Nido municipal mayor Irma Rose C. Bautista said that, by getting the community to take part and agree on the area management program, it will be easier for them to protect the environment because they know that it is in their best interest to take care of it.

Tourism will only come with their money as long as the marine resources are protected.

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Communities cash in on their treasures

EL NIDO in Palawan is a sight to behold.

MORE visitors are going to Lake Sebu to be one with nature and the T'boli people.

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE MAJESTIC PUGO rice terraces, the marine treasures of El Nido in Palawan, and the forests and wetlands of Lake Sebu and South Cotabato have long been on the beaten and tattered tourist track.

But it was only recently that the people living in these areas have started to truly benefit from the dollars and pesos brought in by tourists, and not just the vast operators and owners of hotels and restaurants.

This is primarily due to the implementation of community-based ecotourism programs, which seek to give tourists a good time while preserving the environment and giving the communities their due.

Ifugao Rice Terraces

Ifugao Gov. Teodoro A. Baguilat Jr. said in a presentation during the recently concluded CHI Expo 2007 of the League of Corporate Foundations (lcf), through the efforts of the farmers, the Pugo terraces, Ifugao's crown jewel, are now being organized around the rice cycle—from planting to harvesting—of the world's famous terraces.

Through these specialized tours that take place in the 22 municipalities of Ifugao, visitors get the chance to go to the terraces, eat up close and personal rice, try the terrace walls, witness the rituals to drive away pests and finally take part in the harvest-thanksgiving festival.

At the same time, they will see how Ifugaos—famous for their ancient traditions and woodcarving skills—live and manage to keep their culture alive despite the steady march of modernization.

The proceeds from a typical three-day, two-night tour, which costs about P4,500 per person, are distributed among tour guides, jeepney operators, hotels, host communities and to nature, which uses the money to pursue programs to save the rice terraces.

The rice terraces are slowly deteriorating because many of the young Ifugaos have abandoned their plots in search for better jobs in the lowlands or abroad.

It has just been a year since the Tinoc town got off the ground, but Baguilat, who also serves as barangay chair of Tinoc, said that the town has given the community as a reason to take better care of the terraces, and perhaps even convince the younger generation to stay and continue the long farming tradition.

Baguilat explained that, with money coming in through tourism, the Ifugaos will be able to address their pressing problem of putting food on the table.

"We realize that we can not talk about preserving culture and the terraces with Ifugaos if they are hungry," Baguilat said.

But with more tourists representing their interest to go to the rice terraces, not just to take pictures but to actually take part in the preservation of the national treasure, Ifugaolen expressed hope that the terraces would be around for future generations of Ifugaos and Filipinos to enjoy.

EL NIDO has an estimated 903 species of fish and more than 100 species of corals.

Lake Sebu, South Cotabato

A similar economic transformation is taking place among the T'boli in South Cotabato.

Priscilla N. Caldoza, national project coordinator of the National Ecotourism Program, said during the CHI Expo 2007 that, because of a tarnished campaign over ecotourism program in the Lake Sebu by Protected Landscape, the T'boli community is now producing more of their native t'nalak fabric and traditional beaded accessories as tourists come marching in.

The program was crafted jointly by the national and local government units, leaders of the community and nongovernment organization, with some funding provided by the New Zealand

CONTINUED ON B11

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TOURISTS join the rice harvest in Mayoyao, Ifugao.

A wonder no more

Mindanao folk get first taste of electricity

TEAM Energy has set aside $1 million to provide electricity to 100 barangays.

By Abigail L. Ho

IT'S EASY TO TAKE for granted things that have been around for so long or they can be remembered. In the case of Metro Manila residents, electricity has always been part of daily life. But people in some parts of Mindanao though, some don't even live long enough to experience the benefits of electric power.

This is something that the Alsons Power Development Group Inc. (APDGI) and its partner, TEAM Energy Corp., aim to change through a rural electrification program that harnesses the power of nature through solar and micro-hydro systems.

The DOE and Alsons' program administrator Winrock International recently signed a memorandum of agreement for the energization of at least 100 more barangays in the coming months.

The energization efforts will be funded by a $3-million grant from TEAM Energy, Inclusive Rural Philippines Corp. through Alsons Philippines Foundation Inc., and a P30-million contribution from the DOE through the Barangay Electrification Project and Remote Areas Electrification Subsidy Program.

» MYWORK B5-1

ABOVE: Dark days turn light ... thanks to the Alsons program.

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A wonder no more

From page B3-1

This agreement is expected to help the DOE achieve its targets of 100-percent barangay electrification by next year and 90-percent household electrification by 2017.

According to data from the DOE, the country's rural electrification program has reached the 91.26-percent level of barangay energization as of the first quarter.

The entire first 10,000 of the 41,000 barangays all over the country now have access to electricity.

The remaining 1,998 barangays that are still without electricity should be energized by next year, within which the government aims to complete its rural electrification program.

Of this number, 1,246 should be given access to electricity within 2007.

Solar power

Most of the country's barangays' electrification efforts were undertaken through the Access program, a collaborative effort not only among the DOE, Meralco and Youth Energy, but also with the United States Agency for International Development and the Asociacion Ingles of Muslim Mindanao.

The program uses standalone renewable energy systems such as solar and micro-hydro systems to provide electricity to conflict-stricken villages in Mindanao.

Access program chief of party Theresa Cruz-Capellan is particularly proud of energization efforts using solar photovoltaic (PV) panels supplied by Shell Solar Philippines Corp.

The partnership with Shell Solar, she says, not only helps advance overall rural electrification activities in Mindanao, but also empowers residents of beneficiary barangays to efficiently manage their electricity consumption and—more than all—maintain their own solar PV systems with minimal assistance from Shell and Access.

Shell Solar general manager Harriet Nadera says that after installation of the solar PV systems, the company doesn't just leave the beneficiary households to fend for themselves.

Two weeks after installation, he says, Shell Solar technicians will visit the households again to help address whatever problems they may have encountered. The next maintenance visits come four months, six months and 12 months after installation.

Consumption management

Users of the solar PV systems are also taught how to manage their electricity consumption to ensure that their systems will last for years.

For example: a 50-watt Shell solar PV system can supply 180 watts of power a day. To prolong the system's useful life, Nadera says users should be careful not to totally drain the battery.

This is no easy task, considering how excited beneficiary households are about finally having access to electricity.

"Upon first installation, when the light is switched on, people usually don't talk or do anything else but stare at the light. It's the same experience everywhere," Cruz-Capellan says.

Nadera says that when the initial excitement dies down, training on consumption management begins and is actually put to the test.

"The users are taught that their task, if they have the 50-watt model, power a day. A rice light. But they can other appliances to or air, which consume hours," he relates.

"They can't use a kerosene. If they ha number of hours a d to give up their light learn to manage the dynamics. Isn't he s

Training for tech

Apart from Cruz-Capellan [illegible] are also chosen for crimes" who are 'k basic problems u on how solar ene

THE POWER of the sun will be harnessed to bring power to Mindanao.

MORE families are feeling the benefits of electric light.

If you think about it

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CHEVROLET

THE IDEA aims to provide electricity to off-barangay/grid areas.

...ion has provide 150 units of ...ated kit comes with a 75-watt ...el, but they can also hook up ...he system to a 14-inch TV ...r around 20 hours of power on ...

...d appliances in the same time, ...ers to watch TV for a certain ...ay, for example, they will have ...e for several hours. They really ...o consumption if they were ma...als.

...nicians

...ommunity management, ...ems that some individuals ...ne to misuse the "village techni...ly address simple matters ...d even provide information ...rward household con avail ...

...chnicians of solar PV systems.

"The cash managing our barges is only good for 30 households. We those still with no electricity, there has to be someone or craft there how they can access the system. For those who already have the system installed, there has to be someone they can run to when they encounter any problems," she said.

"The end of training do-more qualified individuals to become village technicians is first given to the barangay residents who encountered in candidates.

People from Shell Eldo and the former program...does some dams, reaching down the basics of electricity and of installing and repairing solar PV systems.

The best, notably "the most persistent and the most able to communicate with the people," in their designated village technician, Sadiri says.

Some 166 technicians have been trained so far and 17 in Cagayan alone are around 500 additional technicians will be trained starting late March to September 2008.

"Aanew has done a lot of good for Mindanao. We didn't only help provide electricity to places that have never had it, but we also give people another source of livelihood through the technician training," Sadiri said.

"What we want to see is [beneficiary-barangays] no longer requiring external help because they already have their own external sources. This should make the rural electrification program sustainable," he adds.

Philippines awaits growth of the solar energy industry

SOLAR ENERGY IS THAT BIG coming a popular name in the energy industry. But how reliable is it?

The panacea of some energy is enormous, appealing already to huge untapped markets, but until today the seeming imbalance between support and solar's limitless resources remains unrealized.

Low cost

The solar panel is an impressive one. Mitsubishi Tokuda of the Power Corp. manufacturer of high efficiency solar cells, utilizes solar technology using still more than conventional sources of power.

If solar-powered consumption is pegged at P13.10 kilowatt-hour, grid-connected power will only cost about P1.52 a kWh.

But the prospects are up. Soon...

Cepalco, an independent power producer based in Cagayan de Oro City, sign solar power to light homes and fuel factories in its service area. Nueva Philippines confirmed to assist pushing for in Bicol, Laguna with solar systems.

The same thing has happened in Cartagena where the Danish Plants manufacturers shifted from diesel to solar power to light it at night.

By all indications, solar is an energy to taking off.

Photo by Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala

While the challenge is to... duction cost of solar modules is a top consideration, increasing the conversion efficiency of solar cells is also a growing concern.

Making solar or pv with grid power through these limits is what SunPower is trying to do.

The current production capacity of SunPower is estimated at 370 megawatts.

Aeware program

SunPower is using to support the to guide a number of socially-responsible industrial...

One of these, Trinidad power...ed one, aims to provide solar lighting to remote villages served by the Alliance of Mindanao Off-grid for Renewable Energy (Amore) in Akaloo Mindanao.

The first with Amore, a local electrification program of the UE agency for International Development, Department of Energy and Winrock International, has left Sampaloc to provide electricity to rural school buildings.

While international news agency Solar Buzz says that development of solar cell manufacturing plants is costly, to quit big (Gulfpark of $1 million) investments is a megawatt, the world is promising.

Since 2002, prices of silicon ingots had doubled, causing a dominos effect on the cost of solar panels.

The 15 percent rise in international prices from $1.70 a watt in 2004 to $4 last year is alarming.

This how do silicon ingots become solar panels?

Silicon ingots are thinly sliced to about 300 to 350 microns before these are converted into wafers.

The wafers are chemically-treated to become semi-conductors.

There are also semi-reflective coatings applied on the front surface to provide texture, thereby increasing the amount of light absorbed by the semi-cell.

The metal contacts that serve as internal wiring are screen-printed and heat-treated into the surface of the cell. The cells are interconnected and assembled into modules as solar panels after which they are laminated with tempered glass and polymer encapsulation.

Urban areas

In the United States and Germany, solar systems are installed in urban areas ideally roof-mounted with an Internet connected to household appliances.

The system is then linked to the grid through a standard utility meter so homes can get credit from the excess power generated by the panels during the day.

In the Philippines, solar home systems are seen in areas where grid connection is too pointless.

A common installation in American areas, for example, are 30-watt peak household systems estimated at P20,000 each.

These can light up a few bulbs and run small appliances like a 14-inch television, or a karaoke system.

While solar industry players in the country have stressed ways to lessen time installation costs, they still await the implementation of the bill on renewable energy.

With the law finally in place, the country will have to improve energy for a consideration, but also a viable electricity option in the future.

Seeing the world ...

from page B1-4

...sponsibility for the Ayala group as the group seeks scale as well as as the level of individual companies and business units.

The Ayala Social Initiatives come from more than 20 years of accumulated learning from practice on the ground as well as from benchmarking executive against global standards.

The Ayala Social Initiatives will become our group's formula for helping other companies learn from them into our ...

We teach each other and learn from one another.

Our companies and our executives freely share their respective strengths and expertise as part of our enterprise culture of mutual respect and openness to the ideas of others.

Big lessons

Down as we learned closer ...ture ... lessons — ...ospective of business and CSR as well as a strategic focus on the primary areas of desired impact — are already recognized that there are ...ot of times of light that complete the spectrum with of our corporate social values.

But all of us, the overwhelming scale of our country's social problems...solutions to be of primary importance.

In the face of such daunting challenges, I can only reiterate what Bill Gates said in his speech at the ...ecutives ...

In addition, Take on the big companies. It will be one of the great experiences of your lives."

The Ayala Social Initiatives seek to be equal to this call of taking on the "big companies" by intermediating two additional big issues.

The first big theme is the ...ideal need for collaboration, cooperation and alliance with a wide variety of other organizations, corporations and individuals.

The other big issue incorporated in the Ayala Social Initiatives is a ...ideal need for ...ongoing dialogue with government on the policies and programs important to our CSR concerns.

No matter how large or how effective we are in the companies' sector, we can become to our chosen fields of social development, we cannot and should not seek to substitute for government, nor should we allow or encourage government to do...

Seeing the world we seek

Pursuing the Ayala Social Initiatives is to see things differently and worldwide in new ways.

Integrating CSR into the fabric of sustainable business is ...even more exciting and demanding than creating a profitable business.

And Jaime as we incessantly review and revise our business models to ensure that they are equal to the challenges and opportunities of our changing market, so too must we continue to review and revise our corporate social citizen to make sure it grapples with the harsh realities of today while reaching on to our better reality tomorrow. (This is a condensed version of the speech delivered by Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala during the recently-concluded corporate social responsibility forum 2007 of the Ateneo de Manila Foundation.)

BUSINESS Monday

Seeing the world we seek

By Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala

WE CAN STATE, QUITE CATEGORICALLY, that we are living in very demanding times. Our planet is under stress. Our country confronts serious challenges. Our communities are in search of real solutions to age-old problems.

Social initiatives

The "Ayala Social Initiatives" is a concrete step we have taken to respond to these demanding times.

The "Ayala Social Initiatives" reflects our group's emerging vision of our engagement and contribution to the social development challenges of our current environment.

I want to share with you what we have done, what we are doing, and what we plan to do in the future.

Before, it developed sporadically in our usually pre-occupied minds — without any clear world-class benchmarked horizon, over many years.

The Ayala group's commitment to social development is tied to our history as an enterprise.

For us, the philanthropic activities of our family have always been closely associated with the corporate values of our businesses, which still refer regularly to "commitment to national development and concern for others."

As I have said in the past, there is increasingly a growing social consensus between business and society.

I shall, however, talk more here personally about the evolution of our corporate social citizenship from the time my brother, Jaime, and I became actively involved some time after the 1986 Edsa people power revolution.

The democratic restoration after Edsa created an opportunity and space primarily for a company like Ayala to re-examine its contribution to nation building.

Our DNA, who we then CEO, named Fernando and I to lead in that corporate reexamination through the Ayala Foundation, which at the time, operated separately and independently from the companies within our group.

At the time, we felt that we had to integrate the Ayala Foundation's work more systematically with the businesses of the Ayala group's operating units.

The staff of the Foundation sat down with the CEOs of various companies to determine common grounds and interests. Many great ideas emerged.

One: Globe and Bank of the Philippine Islands would spearhead the Foundation's drive to develop an Integrated Community Development Plan for the benefit of informal settlers in Ayala properties or in properties we purchased for purchase or development. The plan sought to reflect our desire that affected families from our relocated communities where they would create better lives for themselves. Meeting each's desire demanded new ways of doing business. It involved rigorous social preparation with a holistic relocation package that included new homes, skills training and microfinance, as well as training of community leaders to form support groups like homeowners' associations, cooperatives, youth groups, and mothers' circles. Affected families secured new functioning communities where they had a chance at finding a job or up-raising a business.

This plan eventually became a best practice replicated by other companies handling informal settlers in their properties and studied by governmental agencies in charge of relocation programs.

This marked an important step in the Ayala Foundation's new direction of seeking win-win solutions to community issues that benefit our companies. It became a template for many other similar engagements.

And the approach became a key insight into Ayala corporate social citizen, the idea of deep integration of corporate social responsibility into Ayala's core businesses.

It was a first step in integrating CSR into our strategic model rather than keeping it adjunct to strategy.

Raising the bar

However, we recognized that many fundamental social problems existed in areas away from our businesses.

Allowing these problems to go unresolved could create adverse consequences to our many communities which in turn, would constrain the future growth and stability of our businesses, including ours.

We realized that we must have our own institute of fundamental social problems and our own proactive corporate response to these problems.

We moved in, early on, on the quality of educational formation as a fundamental problem as well as a fundamental solution to creating a brighter Philippine future.

The Ayala Foundation also built a portfolio of flagship programs dedicated to educational formation.

At the apex of our education formation portfolio is the Ayala Young Leaders Program.

We decided that, above all, our country needed value-based leadership with a sense of service.

And the Ayala Young Leaders Program was our way of fostering such leadership in the coming generations.

Beyond Ayala Foundation

We later realized that beyond the excellent work of the Foundation, our group's corporate social responsibility can gain more powerful impetus when our corporations undertake their own CSR programs with focused impact in their specific communities.

We made CSR a strategic counterpoint feature of the Ayala group.

The recognized CSR as important to strengthening our reputation and brand equity, as critical to attracting, motivating and retaining the best employees, as crucial to accessing global investments and technology partnerships, and altogether as an important pillar of our group's competitiveness in our areas going as stated earlier.

So we assessed our CSR programs into the mainstream of our businesses operations.

CEOs of our group discuss CSR in the highest levels of management and every month, when our corporate executives update us on their achievements in banking and finance, real estate, telecommunications, utilities, and the other business concerns of the Ayala group, the Foundation likewise reports on achievements and challenges in corporate social responsibility.

It was during these monthly meetings, as well as at the Board of Trustees meetings of the Ayala Foundation, that we realized the need for a framework to guide the strategic selection of our investments in social development.

We formed a CSR Committee with representatives from all our companies.

We did an inventory of our CSR programs, including the resources deployed in these programs.

And we identified ways to maximize the impact of the considerable resources we were devoting to these programs.

Over a year of analysis and deliberations preceded the formulation of our "Ayala Social Initiatives."

The result was a specific, overarching focus of our major CSR programs in three areas of social development, namely: Education, Entrepreneurship, and the Environment.

This is more than just a move to grouping of our CSR activities into thematic areas.

These three areas are the CSR equivalent of the business sectors in which our group invests.

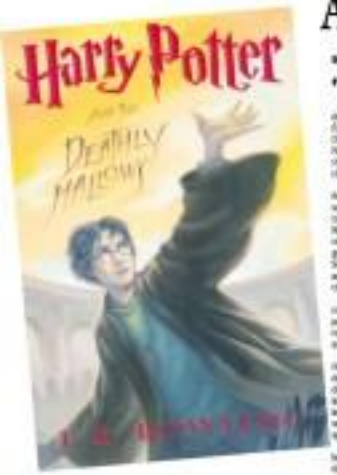
These three – education, the environment and entrepreneurship – now form the triangle of our inherent premise of corporate social re-

(CONTINUED ON B4)

IN THIS ISSUE
- LA OPERA'S Sal Malaki in Manila concert /C3
- 'GALLEON Trade' art shows, talks /D4

LIFESTYLE

All hail Harry Potter



By Rael S. De Vera

THE END HAS FINALLY COME FOR Harry Potter. "I'm going to keep going until I succeed...or I die. Don't think I don't know how this might end. I've known for years," Harry says in "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" (Arthur A. Levine Books, New York, 2007, 759 pages), releasing yesterday from J.K. Rowling fame of her favorite character as well.

After 10 years, a dozen franchises, millions of copies sold and six merchant-grossing tons of readers wining and old, Rowling's world-changing series almost a young wizard growing up at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry—is the most anticipated novel in history.

How anticipated? So many orange juice boxes, powered entirely by the anticipation for this final volume, with millions of readers murdering their bookstores on July 21 and for the duration of respective runs.

The dark book, 2000's "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," had sealed somberly with the death of Hogwarts Headmaster Albus Dumbledore and Harry pondering the Dead Horse. But in this final chapter Rowling implements sweeping changes in the world of Hogwarts as the all-powerful Lord Voldemort's Death Eaters open against the Order of the Phoenix's forces.

Dumbledore's (unexpected)? Entire platoons of characters, both beloved and besieged, are mowed down, the crusaders coming to suddenly and brutally

a will-thousand-word-to-the-hardest moment.

As the Death Eaters mount a takeover of the Ministry of Magic, Harry finds himself both a fugitive and a widdershins, trying to elude Voldemort even as he tries to find the horcruxes (wizards containing fragments of the Dark Lord's soul).

"I shall attend to the boy in person," Voldemort declares. "That Potter lives is his error in my resurrection, his triumphs."

As with the earlier novels, there are magical puzzles at the heart of "Hallows," clues of the three mystical artifacts called, well, the Deathly Hallows.

But this rather pedestrian conundrum isn't particularly gripping, as there is so much going on that the mechanics of the quest are the character-and-Rowling engages in. After all, readers will fortunately stop guessing who will join Dumbledore and Sirius Black in the afterlife, eager to find out whether The Boy Who Lived lives or not.

Finale feeling

"Hallows" clearly has the feel of a series finale, as virtually everybody who had figured

BACK TO

The most anticipated conclusion in the history of fiction, J.K. Rowling's 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows' is a satisfying, reader-friendly celebration of all things Harry Potter

The Boy Who Lived will not go quietly

By Elvira Paul A. Peralta
Contributor

WHEREVER AND TWO MAJOR CHARACTERS would die in the final installment of J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" series wasn't a great lie. It's clear that in the many characters that surrounded the scandalous and morally evil the boy wizard's time so grown on so that the line between major and minor characters has blurred, if not completely disappeared over time.

Thus, the magic of Harry Potter, which drowned out of the pages of the first book like a shining illusion out to drive away a dark cloud in our troubling habits. The magic so powerful that it has influenced how and when other new magic duels itself more recently as "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" is spun in.

Clear

"Hallows" is best beginning to end a thrilling cliffhanger chase between Harry and his nemesis, the evil Lord Voldemort. The first chapter is an exact reminder, very much like the new books before it.

Voldemort's fully restored to his corpse-self with the help of Harry's blood, it is conjoined with his Death Eaters at Malfoy Manor, the cruising a new plot to kill the boy wizard. Harry was in touch from at Hogsmeade, immobilized as Phoenix Inside Albus Dumbledore's killer, provides (for information on Harry's murder into safer quarters by members of the Order.

Meanwhile, Phoenix member's are at No. 4, Privet Drive, passing a decoy plan to safety. Commissioned by the Magic Ministry's regulation of all magical travel, they resort to the Muggle (non-magical) means.

With a Phoenix member on Voldemort's side, however, the transfer is almost chaotic, with Harry again facing Voldemort for the third time since their encounter at the graveyard during the Triwizard Tournament. I'm sy's maid, two of Voldemort's, protects him from the latter's power, but the cost to the

Order of the Phoenix does not by any stretch.

The closer begins.

Hallows and horcruxes

After their engaging Harry in action, however, Voldemort is inviting a new way to vanquish his humiliation. We are invited to be as early as in the opening as Mad-Eye Moody relates the Dark Lord comes among his new pros- and-phoenix feather wand to avoid the connection with Harry's aura. Remember dear [illegible] Ollivander's warning? [illegible] Voldemort, [illegible] Lord's is a terrible master"). Is Voldemort who's feared arbitrar.

Harry, Hermione Granger and Ron Weasley are busy attempting to find and destroy the

The 7th book closes the series, but will readers ever tire of Harry Potter?

THE EDITORS

Pasible 'yan dahil may instant access ka sa leading news networks.

NATIONAL Artist for Literature Bienvenido Lumbera leads the ceremonial ribbon-cutting of the new PowerBooks TriMarea. Assisting him are Pot Medina of "Pugad Baboy" chic-lit writer Tara FT Sering, National Book Store's Socorro Ramos, TV personality Tonio Barrios and PowerBooks' Gift Gidday Lozada

New book haven north of Manila

By Dinah R. Manila
Contributor

AN ECLECTIC GROUP OF writers recently took time to greet the opening of PowerBooks at the Ayala TriMarea Mall.

Sharing their stories on the personal stairs of Filipino literature and culture were National Artist for Literature Bienvenido Lumbera, "Pugad Baboy" creator Pol Medina Jr. chic-lit author Tara FT Sering, television personality Tonio Barrios and National Book Store's Socorro Ramos. "Literary Living" Stations.

The authors eagerly answered questions from the audience and inspired young aspiring writers with their answers.

PowerBooks TriMarea, the first in the QC area, is another fine accessories collection of Filipino titles north of Manila because it believes in the promotion of homegrown talents and their works, PowerBooks officials said.

Located on the third level of Trimarea, the outlet is PowerBooks' ninth since the specialty bookstore was established in 1996.

Among their core values and displays in the new PowerBooks branch are major Filipiniana publishers such as Anvil, University of the Philippines Press and Ateneo de Manila University Press, and Sen. Tessa Publishing House.

Aside from Filipiniana works, PowerBooks also features a host of foreign literature ranging from fiction to lifestyle, history, business, children's literature and other trade books.

General manager Gabby Lozano said PowerBooks would have done its job if they would get children to look forward to reading, having fun and even learning a little.

Also present during the opening were Vladimir Balagtas of Carmichael Foundation (carmichaelfoundation.org), a nonreligious, nonstock, nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing education to the underprivileged children and help in various communities.

Until Aug. 7, PowerBooks will donate 1% from every purchase to Carmichael.

With monthly events and special interest nights such as poetry readings, book launches and signings, author visits, lectures and book club discussions at the stores, PowerBooks promotes the habit of reading not just as a solitary pursuit but also as an interactive activity.

All hail Harry Potter

From page C1

somewhat prominently in the previous books shows up and most of the writings are redeemed. Rowling even tells the characters through the pages, crashing a wedding with a chilling warning: "The Ministry has fallen... They are coming."

Coming into the seventh book, Rowling had quite a task ahead as she must now answer all the questions she had buried in the previous six books, perhaps too many questions.

Readers will need a pen score to remember all the minor hidden and skywalk left hanging, as most of the mysteries were embedded in the mysterious first three books. But Rowling can still intrigue, as she'll treat decipher everything from the resting chess carved on gravestones to the surprising ending to the interview of a man Harry despises.

While many of the answers may seem a bit far out, Rowling makes sure every sequence is tied to not, even if readers have to take her word for it.

Perhaps the most engaging part of "Hallows" is Rowling's characterization. Each character is given a unique personality, even if they were not the central figures in the previous books. Rowling has a knack for bringing out the characters through the pages, crafting

Maláki teams up with Gerodias

By Ariadne Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

TENORS Jed Madela and Placido Domingo with fiery soprano from "The Harry Wazee"

The Filipino tenor, who will mount a homecoming Manila concert on July 28, is a member of the Los Angeles Opera Company under Placido Domingo

IN THE MIDST OF FAIRTROUS, grueling and fascinating marathon interviews with the members of the Andrea Bocelli/Sarah Concert Choir (ABSC), composer-arranger Joey A. Ayala suddenly exclaimed:

"Madalas ang tsuri. Kapansi pasan stomach. Pangit, ang pangit. Smile and keep smiling all the time. The diaphragm. Inhale. And then swallow and project your voice the way my nephew Jed Madela does!"

And the chairwoman unabashed resounding, consistent notes which almost shook the Department of Agrarian Reform building, where the choir practices every Sunday.

The reference was to operatic tenor Jed Madela, a former soloist of the ABSC and now a noted singer with the Los Angeles Opera Company, which is under the general direction of, no less, Grammy winner Placido Domingo.

Maláki is noted among the three top tenors in the opera company's ensemble, and is also a soloist of the Los Angeles Master Chorale under Grand Esteban. The latter group has provided the vocals for such Hollywood movies as "Waterworld," "Dr. Zhivago," "Ringkang" (2002), and last year's supernatural thriller "Ladis in the Water."

In 2005, Maláki had a well received recital at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. And last year, also at the CCP, he scored as Pinkerton in the Philippine Opera Company's production of Puccini's "Madama Butterfly."

He's back

For sports buffs, the good news is that Maláki is back in town, and singing once again for worthy causes.

A Protestant, he has just performed "Classics from the Heart" in Antipas City for the benefit of the Catholic Archdiocese of Antipas del Norte. And his Manila concert is slated for July 27, 8 p.m., at the Greenhills Theater.

In "In Concert Classique," the tenor teams up with Rachelle Gonzalez, the Philippines' original soprano. Another special guest is young violinist Joseph C. Valdez, 14. The show is sure to be a crowd-pleaser, bringing together well-loved arias and duets from Italian opera, Broadway and time-honored Filipino songs.

The concert, sponsored by Tri-Star Concerts, is for the benefit of the projects of the Christian Witness and Service.

Maláki has yet to land a leading role in an opera in the US. And in a recent press conference at Mesh's Bistro in Greenbelt, Makati City, the tenor said this was due to a form of discrimination (he called it "typecasting"). The hero's role in a Western opera is usually reserved for a white singer, and as it often goes in an American or a European.

PAGING 12

VIOLINIST Joseph C. Valdez

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Cinemalaya Congress opens this week

JAMMY HEAVY PROGRAMME for the Directors' Fortnight of the Cannes Film Festival, will be the keynote speaker of the 2007 Cinemalaya Film Congress on July 24, 9 a.m., at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino.

Jimpy joined the Directors Fortnight section of the Cannes Film Festival in 2005 as its Asian special-ist. He also has made Directors Fortnight the hottest section in Cannes for its discovery of new Asian films and talents, among them the world premiere of "Foster Child," a Filipino film by Brillante Mendoza.

Before Cannes, Jimpy was programmer and artistic director of the Jeonju Asian Film Festival. He established the festival as a key Asian theater event for Asian cinema. He continues to be an active consultant and programmer for various film festivals and other projects.

The Cinemalaya Film Congress is an on July 24 (24) and is a major component of the 2007 Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival and Competition on July 20-29 at the CCP.

The year's Film Congress carries the theme "Surrounding Turbulence for Artistic Expression." It intends to focus on the intimate relations between technology and art in filmmaking. Five panels composed of film artists, technicians and businessmen will discuss these relevant issues.

The 2007 Cinemalaya Film Congress will evaluate the achievements of selected Cinemalaya films, inform the filmmakers about recent and significant developments in film technology and business, discuss the alternative distribution systems for long-term marketing, and distribution of independent films both here and abroad.

Among the featured panelists are Tikoy Bautista, Joel Jamio Reyes, Lee Meily Soho Jimno, Robert Ferreras, Clodualdo del Mundo Jr., Lamar Quintos, Mark Gil, Miguel Escobar, Marya L. de los Reyes, Neil Daza, Michelle Dizon, Elsa Knauss, Eleanor Tayao, David Jocson, the theaters, Bobbie Tan, Ronald Arguelles, Mike Sandejas and Jeremy Sagun.

The panel discussions will be moderated by Mark Bautista, chairman of the Avenue de Manila Department of Communication, Ida Zulueta, Manoochi ng Pelikulang Pilipino and UST faculty of Arts and Letters; Marie Concepcion, Mia Stewart and Modess editor; Bernie Marasigan, Artistic Director of Tanghalang Pilipino; and Ed Gallagher, head of the CCP Media Arts Division.

Dr. Rosario G. Tungcuan of the UP Film Institute is the Congress Director.

The Cinemalaya Film Congress is presented by the Film Institute of the University of the Philippines College of Mass Communication, in cooperation with the Cinemalaya Foundation, CCP and Komisyon ng wikang Filipino.

Congress fees are set at P500 regular package for two days; P350 package for students (for two days only). Registration for non-students. Participants who attend two days of the Congress will be awarded a Certificate of Completion.

Call CCP Media Arts Division at 8321125 loc. 1704-05 or visit www.cinemalayacongress.ph.

'Florante at Laura' from Gantimpala

THE GANTIMPALA THEATER Foundation kicks off its 20th year in Philippine theater with "Florante at Laura," Francisco Balagtas' awit, now reinvented as a modern day komedya.

Getting life to the Cinderella royalty are Jaclene Jiménez (Florante), Isabel Oli Oria (Laura), Albie De Silva (Adolfo), Rodjie Pascua (Duke Briseo), Billy Pardon (Antonio), Basil Bernardo (Fleeting Glance), Nanette Flandoloso (Reyna Floresca), Noel Resendes (Menandro), and Michael Ray Dimla (Batang Florante/Nanette). Portraying the three monarchs are Sultan Cruz (Sultan Ali-adab), Bibi Rojas (Jose), Christopher David (Sultan Lakas Emperado Damaso) and Dada Aquino (Doña).

Ibarlan Gallo is director and production designer. Playwright is Rene Villanueva. Lights designer is Andy Villareal. Choreographer is Serjio Alejandro Jr. Production Manager is Cheryl Dancel. Executive producer is Ramon Obusan.

Performances are on July 22, at 7 p.m., Concert at the Park Open Air Auditorium, Luneta, Manila; July 27-29, 31 a.m. and 2 p.m., AFP Theater, Quezon City; August 3-4, 10 a.m. and 8 p.m., SM Mall of Asia Premiere Theater, Pasay City; and Aug. 10-11, SM Southmall Cinema 6, Daang Hari-Sucat Road, Las Piñas City. For tickets, call 8990746 or 9902505.

Maláki teams up...

Pumunta sa P3

The name with Hollywood. Bobbi confirmed for a singing (about) role in "Pirates of the Caribbean," but he didn't make it because the part called for a white singer (one of us).

But you might say this time is crying all the way to the bank, for he is well paid for his services. As an SPGB per call (double that on a holiday). Once he received $1,000 for a one-hour recording.

Despite his non-Latino surname and Asian appearance, Maláki is doing well in the US, and he attributes this to pure talent: "Talent will prevail... Pinagpala ako sa Panginoon [I'm from the Philippines], and I'm proud of that."

Geraldine added another dimension: When she was studying and singing abroad, "facing Filipino was an advantage for me instead of a disadvantage. I have observed that we are a very musical people, it's innate in us."

IN THIS ISSUE
Buen Calubayan's art of the 'TAO' /D4

LIFESTYLE

HAWAII: with his 1992 work "Nang Mali'y Bigkas Sumigik ang Tagapagsalin," at the Singapore Art Museum's conservation building

At 42, Salingpusa's most underrated member is finally ready to claim his place in Philippine art in 'Dumadaan'

Clear the way, Neil Manalo passing through

By James P. Ong
Contributor

ALTHOUGH HE NEVER really went away, painter Neil Manalo will be back with a bang next month with "Dumadaan," his first exhibition after a two-year hiatus from the art scene.

The works for "Dumadaan," according to Bond Schools of Philippine Art Projects, are all sold out. Such is the demand for Manalo's pieces. He is also scheduled for exhibitions outside the country in the next two years.

That's great news for one of the country's most underrated artists.

Last month, together with Jim Paredes, Manalo visited the Singapore Art Museum (SAM) to take a look at his 1992 painting "Nang Mali'y Bigkas Sumigik ang Tagapagsalin" (Suddenly the Interpreter Intervened), which won first prize in the Art Association of the Philippines competition that year.

It was purchased by SAM in 1993 and has since been one of its favorites; its museum officials bring it abroad when it showcases its collection as important art fairs.

The piece, a commentary on how sometimes foreign media's regular television programming, shows a group of media-eyed children in shock as a commercial interrupts a crucial murder scene.

CLICK D4

"DUMADAAN" I

"DUMADAAN" I

"DUMADAAN" I

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What is Britania Art Projects?

BRITANIA ART PROJECTS, or Art Independent, an company formed in 2006 in response to the need for professional management to commercial listeners artists and the various sectors of the Philippine art industry.

The company services the artists sector with representation, exhibition and career management platforms, even as it assists local art galleries, collectors and dealers in the acquisition, exchange and presentation of works of art.

The company also has a select collection of contemporary Philippine art pieces from both young and mid-career artists.

Headed by Ronnel Britania, who's taking an arts management course in the University of London, Britania Art Projects is networked with several Manila-based art spaces and museums, as well as with various houses, galleries and art centers in Europe and Asia.

Among its major projects is to organize and present Philippine contemporary art exhibitions in the Southeast Asian market, through Singapore.

For more information, you can send an email to britania.artprojects@gmail.com or send sms to 0917-8050820.

BRITANIA, whose arts management company is organizing Neil Manalo's exhibit in Harvendon

PRIDE OF PLACE
Augusto Villalon

Adopt a lighthouse

21 ancient lighthouses in the deserted extremes of the Philippine islands are up for adoption

LIGHTHOUSES, SUPREME ICONS OF solitary human perseverance standing on remote typhoon-battered bluffs and lonesome islands, are the stuff of romance for many.

But maintaining the 21 surviving Philippine lighthouses located in the deserted extremes of the Philippine archipelago, all considered obsolete by 21st century satellite or sensor navigational needs, is now the job of tomatoes, as the Philippine Coast Guard now realizes.

Adopt a Lighthouse program is on answer.

Corporate or private individuals who adopt lighthouses must enter into agreements with the Coast Guard who basically allows them use of the property in exchange for its maintenance, hoping not to wonder if the adoptive "parent" of lighthouses would be abducted, or if extraterrestrials will use deserted facility for a compatible commercial activity to help offset restoration and maintenance cost.

Many lighthouses, built during the Spanish and American colonial regimes, are up for adoption. Some recently manage to survive in the hostile waters of the Philippine archipelago. Others are in populated areas, one hidden in the mouth of Pasig River in Manila, and another surrounded by an upscale residential seaside development in Cebu.

During the early days of maritime travel, international ships relied on lighthouses to guide them safely out of the open sea and into Philippine waters. Outer-visible Philippine waters, lighthouses marked treacherous points in the archipelago, pointing out safe passages for sailing vessels to steer off reef.

Pioneered in lighthouse location a revolving function of guiding the nearest traveler, whether through vessel lines on top of rocky peaks, or through sophisticated optics atop tall towers, arrays of dots signaling towers.

The Coast Guard states four important historical of lighthouses.

First, they serve as stationary points with navigational cross-bearing capability along primary and secondary maritime routes. Reference points and landmarks, lighthouses are navigational aids for charting ship positions in the area. Fisher-beams of fixed or revolving light at night, or the night of lighthouse towers by day allow navigators to establish their position en route to any Philippine port.

Second, lighthouses are navigational aids that channel vessels safely to our ports and harbors. Scattered all over the archipelago, they direct vessels and fishermen to their home ports as well as pointing the route for larger vessels to maneuver through narrow Philippine straits and channels.

Third, they warn navigators of treacherous or hazardous surrounding the light station. Shallow areas, dangerous for commercial sailors, appear in early Spanish colonial charts by the cautious Spanish navigators, together with notations weather and preceding marine disasters that diminished after the construction of lighthouses.

Fourth, lighthouses provided landfall lights to vessels approaching land or sailors, assist route vessels sailing near Philippine waters either to dock in local ports or to sail through to other foreign destinations. Regardless of advanced electronic navigational aids, visual aids are still necessary to confirm the vessel's location.

Towers of brilliance

Lights of different intensities assist vessels or lighthouse towers to guide the navigators ships passing through our seas. The first lighthouses had lamps lit by candles, to glass focused by powerful prisms normally

SPANISH colonial seafarers in mark the gate to Manila's go Lighthouse, recently adopted by a private entity that will ensure its preservation.

TOWER of Manila-bay Lighthouse in Punta Engaño, Batangas, stands behind the quarters keeper's quarters.

NOTHING but the bare essentials are provided to the lighthouse keeper's family quarters.

STRANDED, completely occupied and the lighthouse keeper's quarters lies a bluff between the mountain and the sea.

LAMPS," by Eman

Art that's likely to endure

By Constantino C. Tejero

SOME RELATIVELY NEW ART galleries have the fortune of timing the much right away. That is, they have this essential knack for discovering new talents that are either young, original or interesting.

In Makati City, three new galleries seem are establishing niche by side or alternately the needs of established artists, master artists and even Salonas Artists and those of upcoming ones, fresh graduates from art school and even non-graduates.

We can unwillingly say those new talents do not exactly pale to, but, many of them exhibit art that's likely to remain in posterity.

In Quezon City on the second floor of UCO Bldg. at 121 Kamuning Rd., is a newly opened art space called Saida. In the first months of the gallery's existence, seven have been following its lineup of artists, and we're happy to note that it does not shy away from recent talents.

A case in point is its recent exhibit "Tribes," showcasing the paintings of Jose Cabungcal, Jonas Eden and Val Cabangon Jr., all fresh graduates from the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts.

There are pieces in oil and in mixed media on canvas—and they don't exactly look original but the artwork's flair remains in, flow of heart.

Eden, for instance, says he incorporates in his works "signage and symbols from postcards, mail and other conventional printed matter to create allegorical images." From this, one would suspect what the Arty adhere but we didn't anticipate the three pieces of a piece like "San, ignacio."

Stretched in an oil stuck of ethos, shamrocks, color and turquoise, is shown the central head of a masked man with an orthodontic barrel across his mouth. The image looks like Europe or a trophy player on an anchor—for that or to two opposite contrasting figures[illegible] as the man he either a passage stamp or a pencil.

Elsewhere, on seeing the blood-red inscription Sto. Quesito on the pennant, you'll have second thoughts and try to pry through the holes in the mask if you could find the eyes and most of the Pinoy-imagined features. Incident to last. And as to why he is depicted thus way, you're free to interpret.

Cabungcal says he works on "contradictions and contrasts throughout the painting process in exploring levelled depth and overlapping forms." His simplified forms are, of course, familiar from the works of the European masters.

The energetic lines, signage and curves you're seen in Bragais' dots, edges, blue and Persian cats on eyelet Cabungcal "Lamps," accentuate brilliant red, pastel green, indigo, slate, mauve and salmon, you recognize the soft sensitive touch of Cabungcal and the bold lines of Mateo Cabungcal' distinctive a that he has somewhat harmonized all these contrasting color variations, straight lines and curves in a painting.

Solo runs he uses sequential and stochastic effects in depicting movements in a popular Philippine genre. In a piece such as "Siding," he experimented with the possibility of form using what used to be the function of photography.

Done in human, slate-blue, white and umber, it shows a man squatting while presiding his morning ritual to smash the cereal. While the man's invalid figure is realistically rendered, the viewer is at first seeing from

"BAPIL," by Vincent Padilla

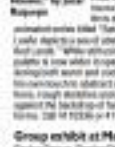
"STO IGNACIO," by Jonas Eden

LAMPS," by Eman

"JOHN Lennon," by Jose Bap

Lawrence Borreta

"INSPIRATION from Linda Pre Rosario," by Jose Bagaya



Borreta, Lesaba and Bagaya at Wee

Lawrence Borreta, Gisela Lesaba and Jacel Bagaya will open an exhibit of their new works at Wee Gallery, 3rd flr. Valero Carpark, 105 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City, on July 14 at 6 p.m. The exhibit will run until July 29.

Group exhibit at Magnet

Group exhibit at Whitelaw

Indigenous arts in General Santos City

'Walastik' photos by Olmedo daughter draw crowd

A SHARED GIRL ONCE unwittingly gave the most definitive description of the art of her father. Dinah Olmedo, with three words, "Daddy, kulit ng gas ng mga pumitas ng pinipit."

Today, Olmedo's body of works has spawned a whole new generation of young Filipino artists who gratefully confess that they have been influenced by the famous propensity of Pigeonday Experimenter with his distorted figures and emotionally charged images depicting the inner sorrows experienced by people.

The girl who uttered that eloquent translation has picture that are really flows in her blood, but she does another medium which has been inked in the level of art as in the 22-a- century—photographer play. Our is Gisella Olmedo-Asuncion, who has mounted her first photo exhibit at Ayala Museum until July 7.

GISELLA and her photographs

HUSBAND Ilac Asuncion, son Basil, Giselle, mom Bertica Olmedo, sister Pranja Arlan

GUMY and Chain Santos, Nora and Andy Manlo

SENIOR Pastor of Victory Christian Fellowship, Pastors Jonathan Bernales and wife Rose Anthony Pangilinan

"Waves, windows and waterside" consists of 35 digital photographs on matte paper depicting the theme of purification and new beginnings symbolized by water and window, culminating in the realization of the fullness of one's God-given "personal" (unleash) a "raging dung word which might transform into "revive" or "resource").

The camera-inspired art theme of various photos that Gisella, better known as Basil, has photographed in the course of her trips across Glacier, Alaska, California, Nova Scotia and Washington DC) as well as local tourist destinations such as Bohol and Boracay.

Gisella took up photography under her boss Emelio Abe Bolilan, whose birthday was on July 7.

Metal

LAMPS," by Eman

Saturday Group show, raffle

THE SATURDAY GROUP CELEBRATES 10 YEARS together with a show, "10," on view in Ian's Corner at Bel-Air, open all until July 28.

The annual Saturday Group benefit raffle will be held at the same venue on July 28, 6 p.m.

Participating artists are Malang, Cris Cruz, Lydia Velasco, Toshi Corcuera, Bernardo Sena, Ito Bautista, Marcelo Balderas, Gerbie Bisaya, William Cadag, Cuba, Myra Cayetano, Mars Cruz, Nilda de Leon, Bob Sanchez, Jing Reinigo, Marvin Bonnaan, Ben Johnny, Alpha Lorenzo, Rudy Luistro, Jo Madarang, Erik Marangoy, Francis Santos, Raul Olmedo, Carlo Ongchangco, Dante Perigro, Keith Perez, Arnie Portillo, Lee Picabia, Tonio Pineda, Roland Ramos, Fidel Sarabiano, Alain Sebastian, Bong Sinchil, Mae Tumangeng, Ronnie Tumpoc, Andy Ubag, Boy Valera, Joseph Villamor, Inna Vivas, Migs Villanueva and Jaime Young.

For raffle tickets and other inquiries, call Ruth Corcuera at (0920) 8286146.

"PRESTIGE Ride," by Ruth Corcuera

solar panels. While new technological advances, the need to inhabit lighthouses is no longer necessary.

Lighthouses, mostly built over a century ago, originally provided with lamps, operator accommodations or for keepers, are now in poor condition, many abandoned, all forgotten, forgotten heritage, mere excise by adopt-ate patrons.

The Philippine lighthouses are: Bagacay in Cebu; Bagatao, Sorsogon; Batag, Northern Samar; Bagal Point, Masbate; Cabra, Mindoro Occidental; Casiana, Iloilo; Corrigan, Leyte; Cape Bojeador, Ilocos Norte; Cape Bolinao, Pangasinan; Corregidor, Manila; Cape Engaño, Cagayan; Cape Santiago, Batangas; Capones, Zambales; Cupid, Northern Iloilo; Dumali, Sorsogon; Alcoseba, Mindoro; Malabrigo, Batangas; Pasig River, Manila; San Bernardino, Sarsogon; and St. Cristobal, Camarines.

For information on Adopt a Lighthouse program, contact 5233881 or e-mail dilacom@yahoo.com.

Feedback is welcome at pr.tab.planet@gmail.com

Book shows nostalgic art of Roland Santos

IT IS REFRESHING TO FIND THAT Roland Santos, as person and painter, defunkts the stereotype of the tormented artist. His demeanor is modest, a likeable chap.

Santos has been a prolapsing artist for more than half his life, having no himself and his family by doing portraits while still barely out of high school.

Today, lauded for his series of old houses, Quonset, homes, landscapes, and still life, the artist is known for his mastery of watercolor and how colors explode from the tip of his brush.

As a professional artist, he reveals, "an intense longing for the past and the irrecoverable," in the words of art critic Gil Reyes while reviewing the artist's fifth one-man show "Nostalgia."

"I believe I'm an old soul," Santos says. "I like things that remind me of the past—antiques, ancestral homes, vintage cars, old movies... There is something romantic about being transported to a time that we can only envision through the memories that have bestowed behind."

But for the artist, nostalgia goes beyond longing for the past. It is an invitation to meditate upon the present, using the elements of such artwork, and hopefully find peace.

Worried that new ones might see his style as hard a more middle-of-the-road, Santos' mother urged the boy to take up civil engineering at University of Santo Tomas. But he realized he could not deceive himself in his mother and longer, so he dropped out of school.

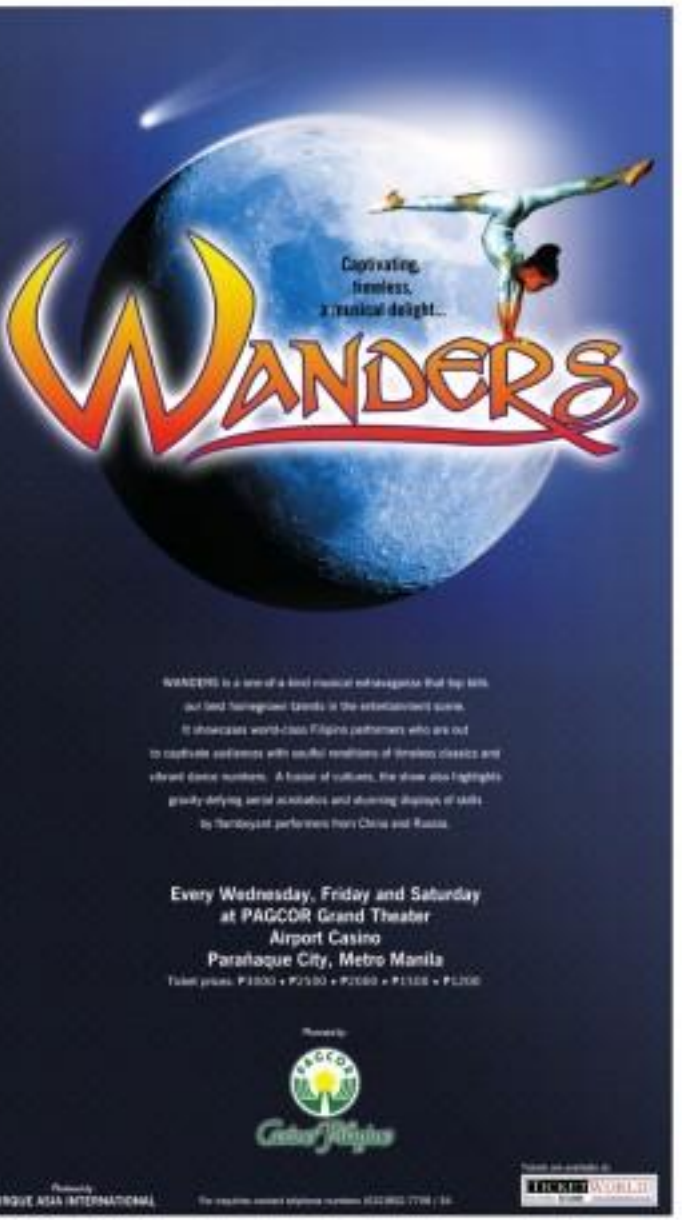
Success came early in Santos' life. Her awareness and critics have yet to cool a name for Roland's gracious rendering of the bougainvillea as an icon for our summers," writes editor and

"BOUGAINVILLEA"

"FLORAL"

columnist Ambeth Ocampo.

Multi-awarded publisher Marina Agrifol is going to launch Roland Santos' coffee table book "Nostalgia" on July 20 at Bistro Rustiques, 3 Cor. de la Rosa St. and Jose Abad Santos St., Urdaneta Village, San Juan. The book showcases over 100 original artworks by Santos and is available in all major bookstores. Call 7251571 or 0908-8932533.



women, hardy art

Legaspi and sculptor-artist Joe Cuina. The exhibit will run until Aug. 6.

On view are striking works handcarved and hand-formed from brass, copper and lead. As the title indicates, they are all women, alone or in men or clusters and always radiating strength. They are goddesses, angels, Amazons, primeval and "modernist" women merged into objects to become musical instruments, rocking chairs and vessels (which may carry life-giving water).

The female forms are generously proportioned, going from Lee-Goseosan receiving an.

The titles of the pieces join or relate the artist is trying to say, say. "Daghan" (generic word), "Kalinga" (possession), "Bighani" (well being), "Bunga" (caring), and the title piece "Kandungan" (the mother's lap as nesting place for the child). "Tatlong," with the

round as symbol, suggests unity of cosmos, concentric.

In "Daghan," the image of the artist interacts with the musical instrument as much of both.

"Surveying, I do is related to women," contributor De La Cruz. "That is how I know women, how I respect and admire them. I did sex stereotypical chores as find out as second objects. I wanted to express their strength."

BUEN CALUBAYAN

Unearthing the archaeology of consumption

The artist digs through the archaeology of our consumption and makes a powerful point: We are no longer defined by the things we buy/own/consume; we are now defined by the very excrement of our purchases/possessions/consumptions

"HITAMPHITAPHIE"

"CRIMSON"

"CABINETION"

By Johnchen Librios Rondina
Contributor

MAUTISTINE HAS BEEN BLESSED to an, the g Pablo, that is, where a piece of black electrical tape has been strewn over his eyes.

The scene of the crime is Ltd Gallery at Serendra and the culprit is artist Buen Calubayan. The show is not emblematic part of his first commercial exhibit but is in every way reflective of the artist's fearless nerve and irreverence.

In "Ins," Calubayan inconstantly elucidates the aftermarket are same in front of the mall, which perhaps explains why they would blindfolding: what he can't see won't hurt him.

Not that Calubayan makes any compromise in his seductive is sometimes as it runs much as Ltd. If anything, it is a significant milestone for both artist and gallery, proving that commercial art spaces can swallow and breed experimental expression.

The exhibit, which runs until July 31, features a series of portraits and two installations. It is, however, best viewed as a continuation of the artist's previous explorations in "unearthing material culture. The exercise is both archaeological and ontological in its attempt to situate and represent humanity in the context of its material excess.

'Exclavation'

Calubayan, who finished BS Fine Arts and BS in Cultural Heritage Studies at University of Santo Tomas, coins the term "exclavation" to describe this process of unearthing.

In "Serendra Exclavation," the artist invades the very bowels of his exhibition. In the floor of clear installation, he hobbles unique layers of human lust. By traps and trash bags to capture the gallery.

"Bagay to ay mga tunda dito sa Serendra," he suggests.

As people move about, bubbles pop as recapitulate consumption to the clinking of silverware on fine dining restaurants nearby.

"BARCODE" Series

In the second installation, Calubayan scrambles layers upon layers of microscopically plastic containing dust, and and an odd assortments of desserts. Here, the artist digs through the archaeology of our consumption and makes a powerful point: We are no longer defined by the things we buy/own/consume; we are now defined by the very excrement of our purchases/possessions/consumptions.

Seen through the gallery's glass doors, the installation invites passers-by to window-shop, only to be barraged with assessments in retrospection. Is this for sale? Is this art? Is this my leftovers? Is this mine? Is this me?

In the artist's exclavation, what emerges as a final layer, buried in all the heap of rubbish, is the human subject—dehumanized, hollowed, wasted, consumed by his own consumption.

Freud himself used the metaphor of archaeology in describing the relationship between memory and the subconscious. For Calubayan, any hint of humanity is a confined imprint in memory based on romantic nostalgia rather than fact.

"I WANT You"

Anti-portraits

The artist's portraits, as such, are usually anti-portraits where the subjects, like Who-is Calubayan's diary, are debased. The images are at once horrible and strange, most of them is obedient.

In "Bar Code" Series, a string of small panels, five faces depict humanity's final destination: commercial damnation. In the age of material excess and never-ending consumption, humanity itself has been commodified, fragmented, bar-coded and, ultimately, imprisoned in this whole significance of identity based on signifiers labels reinforced in symbolic spaces.

In "I Want You," a huge diptych of a face with penetrating gaze, Calubayan demonstrates this sense of imprisonment and alienation. The viewer is lost his own commodification; wounded by limited space, the painting looks panel to 207 cm x 234 cm) cannot be fully appreciated, its subject refusing to be completely appreciated.

There is simply no space to move back to, no distance to view it from. The viewer then, literally enters face to face with this face and is emasculated by its sheer size. Suddenly the viewer becomes the object, entrapped in his own sensuous, penetrated, interrogated, weighed and found wanting.

Any archaeological project is faced with the moral dilemma of whether or not to venture into the destruction of artifacts. In "Ins," Calubayan digs deep and undertakes that project without reservations, producing a body of work that is to equal parts invasive, provocative, disturbing but powerful and necessary.

"Ins" runs until July 31 in Ltd Gallery 2/F Serendra Shops, Bet. Bonifacio Global City. Tipping. Call 909 3152.

BUEN Calubayan at work. The artist uses old wood from dismantled houses in his home province of Quezon as frames.

'Galleon Trade' exhibits and forums open this week

MAGNET GALLERIES, DEREE PAPEN ter Projects, University of Santo Tomas, and Ateneo de Manila University are hosting this week "Galleon Trade," a series of exhibitions and discussions focusing on the connections between the Philippines, Mexico and Central America.

Taking the historic Acapulco-Manila galleon route as metaphor of origin, the activities seek to create new venues of cultural exchange along old routes of commerce and trade. Participants are artist Jenifer K. Wofford and scholar Luzy Rice Bautista Bolen.

The project begins in Manila this week, and continues with reciprocal projects in San Francisco and Mexico in 2008 and 2009.

The Manila exhibitions feature 11 Galleon-based artists—Stephanie Syjuco, Julio Morales, Christine Ploughe Ho, Megan Wilson, Jaime Cortez, Johanna Poethig, Elisa Ramon, Reanne Estrada, Mike Arcega, Gina Osterloh, Rick Cardona and Enrique Chagoya—who will be in town for the shows.

Opening on July 28 to 7 p.m. is an exhibit by Cardona and Chagoya at The Wall of Magnet Café (The Bar, B. S. Bonifacio High Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig). Also on display are supplementary text and images about the project. The exhibit runs until Aug. 11.

Another exhibit will open at Green Papaya Art Projects (114A Magnolia St., UP Teachers Village East, Diliman, QC) on July 28 at 7 p.m. On display are works by Arcega, Estrada, Syjuco, Wilson and Wong-Ship. The show will run until Aug. 14.

A third exhibit will open at Magnet Gallery Katipunan (Ateneo Bldg., 330 Katipunan Ave., QC) on July 28, at 7 p.m. On show are works by Cortez, Morales, Osterloh, Poethig and Barton. Exhibit runs until Aug. 15.

There will also be university roundtable discussions at UST and Ateneo and an international evening "salon" at the Living Room in Makati.

The UST discussion will be on July 25, 3-6 p.m., at the UST Faculty of Engineering Conference Hall. Sponsors are the UST Fil-Ipino-American Women & Scholars Lecture Series and The Santisitan, the official UST student paper.

Confirmed speakers: Smithsonian, Galleon Trade organizer; Maria, scholar participant, UCLA; Shay Daniels, scholar participant, UP-Diliman; Wilson and Cortez, artists; and Lito Zulueta, historian-author and UST professor.

The Ateneo discussion will be on July 27, 4:30-6:30 p.m., at the Science Education Complex, SEC C Loc Hall A/MS 204. Sponsors are Ateneo Institute for Intercultural Studies and Ateneo Human Rights Program.

Roundtable speakers: Winfield Gylloot Trade organizer; Maria, scholar participant, UCLA; Shay Daniels, scholar participant, UP-Diliman; Wilson and Cortez, artists; and Lito Zulueta, historian-author and UST professor.

The Living Room (1199 MH del Pilar, Unit 24, Malate, Manila), the discussion will be on July 29, 6:30 p.m. Participants: Carlos Celdran, Living Room host; Osterloh, Arcega, Poethig, Estrada, Wong Ping-Barton, Syjuco, Gallenot Trade artists; Audrey Wofford, Maria, Reanne and Claire Light, artists.

Call (63.2)441.8555 or e-mail jbautista@ateneo.edu for the exhibition and Living Room event. Call 893.8483/125 for UST and Ateneo discussions.

MICHAEL Arroga's "El Conquistador" w/ manila lobbet

BUENO Estrada's sculpture-of-layered packing tape

Clear the way, Neil Manalo . . .

Viewpage B4

On the line

Nine years ago, MMF began using dust swab as part of a public awareness campaign to promote the museum. The stage was primed as the side of ordered hours.

Four other paintings from its Asian collection were used, Manalo was the only Filipino chosen. And, least what we confessed during our visit, the one with the highest recall.

No wonder the artist was warmly welcomed when he visited the museum. When he was brought to its conservation building, where the works was stored, the employees were delighted to finally meet the artist behind one of its most traveled pieces.

Manalo's tenfold creation with his work was in itself a scene worthy of a painting, since he had not seen it since 1992. He was even surprised to learn that the painting was shown in four years ago at Ayala Museum.

The reception for Manalo and Artemio was the same as when art viewers they visited in Singapore. Gallery owners were excited to meet the mystery artist in the flesh and eagerly asked when he was planning to mount his next exhibit.

"DUMADAMIT" 4

"DUMADAMIT" 3

Bright future

If the future a leading knight for 40-year-old Manalo, he certainly deserves it.

Among his contemporaries at fading pace—incorporationist of Antipolo-based artists formed in 1980, whose members include Elmer Borlongan, Mark Justiniani, Emmanuel Garibay—Manalo is the most underrated, despite having seen in the country's most important competitions since he was a student at the Eastern University.

He still holds the record—together with Montebaro Mercado, Alfredo Esquillo, Ronald Stevens, Rosalio Reis and Cris Villanueva is—of representing the country twice in the Asian Art Biennale. In 2000, he was one of UCPA Thirteen Artists awardees.

In the 1990s, he was noticed for his "TV" series, where he depicted the tabid host as an antagonist. "Nang Mahiya Ngiting Nanunga ang Tagapagsalita" is from that decade.

"DUMADAMIT" 2

"DUMADAMIT" 1

That sentiment changed in 2000 at his "TV" exhibit in Boston Gallery, where he began portraying it as an instrument that kept the family together—and so his images depicted people celebrating, cheering, dancing, singing and even embracing as a result of what they saw on screen.

Observer status

In "Dumadamit," his show next month at Artinformal, Manalo shows once again how keen an observer he is of human feelings.

"As an artist, I consider myself an observer, a spectator of the things happening around," he says. "As a painter, acrylic becomes a my medium of sharing my point of view."

"Dumadamit" is a collection of the artist's old and new iconographies showing different characteristics of people he has encountered. Characters vary from good, bad and steamy to calm, fat, emaciated, coughing, inspiring, beautiful and egoistic.

According to Reisenz, the paintings will be placed side by side and wrapped around the space's three walls to create a strong impact. Since the artist considers all 14 works as part of a series, they will not be individually titled.

"I chose the procession like scene to unify the series of paintings. It shows people going in one direction but have different purpose," says Manalo. "And by painting a huge mirror in the installation. Some may be in a state, some just want attention, some are playful, some are lost, some just go with the flow."

With "Dumadamit," Manalo shows everyone he isn't just passing through. Hopefully, he'll be here to stay.

"Dumadamit" is organized by Reisenz Art Projects and will run at Art Informal (237 Connecticut Street, East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City; call no. 8917.6870/627) Aug. 1-31.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bonnie Q. Velarde

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ALL SMILES
Charito Pio Picazo and Brillante Mendoza, star and director of the film "Foster Child," around the premiere night of the 2007 Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival which opened here this ev the CCP. "Foster Child," the only Filipino film on his shown at the Director's Portnight in the recent Cannes Festival, formally opened Cinemalaya. Story on F6.

ABS-CBN 'ban' fails to faze Jolina

After 20 years in the biz, she has learned to roll with the punches

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

SINGER-ACTRESS JOLINA Magdangal isn't making a fuss even if ABS-CBN, her former home network, has reportedly banned her and co-star Judy Ann Santos from promoting their latest film "Otolja," which is co-produced by Viva Films and ABS-CBN's rival network GMA-7.

"The only question on my mind is, why?" Jolina says. "I don't want to feel bad about it. Don't me na lang sabi-20 yan ganoon (it's"

She asserts: "I'd rather devote all my efforts to ensuring that our movie is promoted well (even without ABS-CBN). I'd rather enjoy myself if you take those things seriously you'll go crazy. I've come to accept that tampuan can't be avoided in (the) business."

She has been in the biz for 20 years and her insecurities still stalk the jungles.

"I've changed a lot," she admits. "But more to learn to play the game. You have to constantly ad- just and manage your feelings."

If the question has a commonplace, that's because it's it.

She started singing at age 11 and has seen peaks and valleys through her two decades in the biz.

Jolina admits that she shares a lot of things in common with "Otolja" co-star Judy Ann, who also celebrated her 20th anniversary in show biz recently.

It's as if they are living parallel lives, Jolina points out. "We've built very happy"

Jolina's boyfriend, Delvoq Mallen, and Judy Ann's, Ryan Agoncillo, fully support the two stars' careers. As much as that the two are committed, so guarantee "Otolja."

"It was just for fun," Jolina says.

Indeed, they all had a blast on the set of "Otolja."

ABS-CBN P2

JOLINA MAGDANGAL

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2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 DIE HARD 4
5 PLANET TERROR
6 WHITE NOISE 2
7 HARRY POTTER 5
8 VACANCY

NOVALICHES

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 WHITE NOISE 2
5 VACANCY
6 DIE HARD 4

PIONEER

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 PLANET TERROR
3 VACANCY
4 IN THE LAND OF WOMEN

STA. ROSA

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 VACANCY
3 THE CONDEMNED
4 DIE HARD 4
5 TRANSFORMERS

LIPA

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 THE CONDEMNED
5 NEXT

DASMARIÑAS

1 TRANSFORMERS
2 THE CONDEMNED
3 VACANCY
4 HARRY POTTER 5
5 DIE HARD 4

IMUS

1 VACANCY
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 BUG
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 DIE HARD 4
6 CAPE KARMA

ANGELES

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 VACANCY
3 BORDERTOWN
4 NEXT

TARLAC

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 DIE HARD 4
TRANSFORMERS

STARMILLS

1 BORDERTOWN
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 VACANCY
5 HARRY POTTER 5
6 NEXT

BACOLOD

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 ZODIAC
3 VACANCY
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 RESERVE
6 DIE HARD 4

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New animated features gear up to delight viewers

SORRY, LOCKSMITH, BUT TV BOSSES' FINE FEELERS will be an especially animated time for viewers. Three new animated features are set to open in time, and most of them look like winners.

In fact, one of them, "Surfsquibs," has already been officially hailed as a hit, ending up in second place to store owner "Transformers," with a healthy gross of $10 million on its second weekend.

In addition, the discerning patron about a ton in from the theater of Counting is cited a getting good reviews, and is even being aired as a promotion of another urban young movie-star—specifically, the need to be distracted to order to achieve such a dream.

Opening locally right after "Surfsquibs" is "The Simpsons Movie." This animated feature has "hit" written all over it, mainly because "Simpsons" fans have been waiting a really long time to see those favorite asinine animated TV shows finally fill the movie screen with its peculiar characters and edgy humor.

But it, the "Simpsons" movie may turn out to be even edgier than the TV shows! Its makers are expected to have made a "pact" with themselves to push back the traditional limits for animated features, and to "think" shown out of their realm!

Well, in a manner of speaking. When they mean is that the "Simpsons" movie will be generally less child and more subversive! Gone the mass-shopping-spree nervous, thrilling sort short with pro-active corporate threatening to weaken into full-blown!

Simpsons fans can hardly wait to see their favorite animated characters play itself out on movie screens. Watch Homer Simpson hit a homer at the baseball!

Some months later, it'll be the turn of "Surfly" — to regale diners with its tasty tale about penguin surfer Cody Maverick and his dream of becoming a champion surfer.

So may be an underpaid underdog, but he has an oversized heart—a big set gets some respect. He thinks a surfing trophy will get him the recognition and love he feels, as he's determined in devaluation it takes to win the Big Z Memorial. Surf-off in Hawaii. Yes, it's like "Cars" on surfboards!

The lead character of Cody Maverick is voiced by none Hollywood heavy Shia LaBeouf, who was attracted to the project by its "endearing" appeal.

He denies that the heart of the film is the relationship between Cody and Big Z. Geoff Bridgers, the surprise surfing great who chose to champion Maverick.

The two characters end up helping each other: "It can teach Cody about the joy of surfing, while Cody shows Z the path back to the life he'd turned out on," Shia explains.

There have been animated features are currently about a rat and French cuisine, the Simpsons family and awesome modern-day cities, and a penguin in a surfing competition. Their lead characters are diverse and yet deeper linked by the fact that they all use their hearts to achieve what they want.

Thus, the modalities and styles of animated features today may have become alarmingly different, but they continue to appeal to "children (cured to 60") because they inspire.

To an age of creeping cynicism, the inspirations they provide is most welcome.

'The Invasion'

Nicole Kidman's fans have missed seeing her on the movie screen for months. Soon, however, they can catch her latest big screen performance in "The Invasion," a sci-fi suspense thriller in which she co-stars with Daniel Craig.

In the film directed by Oliver Hirsch-biegel, the mysterious crash of a space shuttle leads to the terrifying discovery that there is something alien within the wreckage.

Kidman plays a psychiatrist who learns the world crash about the growing extra terrestrial epidemic. It attacks its victims while they sleep, leaving them physically unchanged but seemingly unfeeling and inhuman.

Kidman's character is hard pressed not to fall asleep, as until like needs to stay awake long enough to find her son, who may hold the key to stopping the encroaching invasion.

On HGM Channel

Next month on the HBOM Channel, especially-watch out for three special treats on Aug. 10 at 9 p.m., "What's The Worst That Could Happen?" with Martin Lawrence and Danny DeVito. Aug. 12 at 9 p.m., "The Thomas Crown Affair" with Pierce McQueen and Faye Dunaway. Aug. 16 at 9 p.m., "Frankie and Johnny" with Meg Pressley and Dorinda Douglas. Aug. 17 at 9 p.m., "Hero at War" with George Segal and Paula Prentiss. And Aug. 19 at 9 p.m., "Man of the West" on B. Gary Cooper and Julie London.

'Havana at Laura'

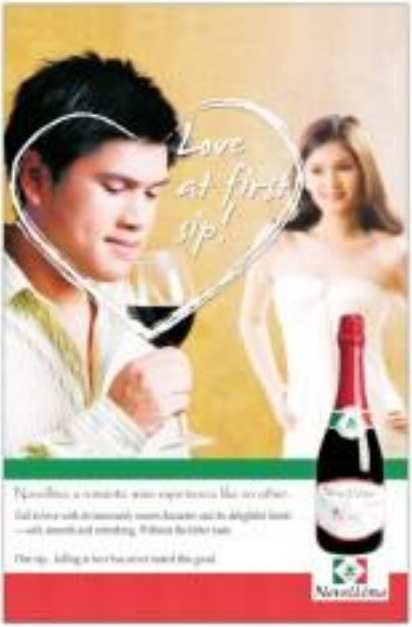
Gantupala Theatre Foundation marks its 20th anniversary with "Havana at Laura." Performances are on July 27 in 20 at 4PF Theater, Aug. 3 and 4 at SM Mall of Asia, and Aug. 10 and 11 at SM Southmall.

Call 899-1746.

Nestor U. Torre

VIEWFINDER

ENTERTAINMENT



'Planet Terror' is a grimy film. Part homage and part parody, it makes you want to take a shower after watching ... but it's hilarious

A mad, mad world

By Oliver M. Palumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

THE CAMPY "PLANET Terror" isn't exactly a smart or subversive movie. But it's so crazy and energetic, it just doesn't let up.

Originally half of the double-feature "Grindhouse," an ambitious ode to the grit & movies of yesteryear, the monster spin-off is that is "Planet Terror" by Robert Rodriguez ("Sin City"), a most loving shoot apparently from Quentin Tarantino's "Death Proof."

Part homage and part parody, Rodriguez's film is a gritty, grotesque sojourn that makes one want to take a long shower after viewing. But the sickly, swampy atmosphere enhances the lowbudget movie's lurid, grimy sensibility.

It doesn't waste time in introducing a number of familiar subjects/comic staple figures: Cherry (Rose McGowan) from "Charmed"), an unhappy go-go girl with dreams of "starting tailoring," desires to skip town to pursue other interest opportunities. She hitches a ride with an ex-lover, the wildly zombie Wray (Freddy Rodriguez from "He Got Game"), who's still pining for her.

But a fateful road accident marks the beginning of their ordeal, and Cherry suddenly loses a leg via a vicious monster attack. Some people, they discover, have bizarre zombie affect a shady dealer gone wrong becomes a military man (Bruce Willis) and a timid scientist (Naveen Andrews from "Lost") that unleashes a chemical weapon on hapless civilians.

The zombie outbreak and gore incidents are witnessed by a doctor, William (Josh Brolin) and his estranged wife, Dakota (Marley Shelton). The sheriff (Michael Biehn) and his trash brother JT (an unrecognizable Jeff Fahey) also encounter disfigured, bloodthirsty creatures. But long after, there's a "Night of the Living Dead" riot of zombies, besieged endlessly by a swarm of monsters.

With Wray's help and tough love up-grade, Cherry must adjust to her new handicap and transform into a heroic survivor-woman. He attaches a specially made, zombie-killing machine gun to the stump where her limb used to be.

There aren't explanations to the implausible elements. How Cherry flies her new "leg" is a mystery, but it doesn't matter; the kids-unleash-hell-and-hook-gone-while-doing-it? The travelers are a quiet, mall- or goofy-looking special effects, but they're still effective when they need to be.

It's not really hard to get into "Planet Terror" because of blissfully campy imagery and a comprehensive soundscape transports you to another world altogether. After the fake trailer of the Mexican revenge thriller "Machete" at the start, you just know it's going to be mean.

Despite the directors relief of scantily clad, gun-toting women, blustering oldies-male wannabees and an insult-gore, "Planet Terror" succeeds in telling a simple but interesting story of various characters.

Planet Terror" isn't a masterpiece, but you can't deny its artistry and audacity. It's silly but tons of fun.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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Emmy draws the line at serial killers

Michael C. Hall's failure to land a nomination for 'Dexter' is the 'single biggest disappointment' for many critics

LOS ANGELES—WHILE MOB BOSS Tony Soprano was embraced once again by Emmy voters on Thursday, they apparently drew the line at serial killers.

Michael C. Hall is a critics' favorite for his title role on this Showtime network drama "Dexter," playing a charming forensics investigator who murders criminals by night. But he was one of several noteworthy Emmy prospects who failed to clinch a nomination.

Hall earned a nod in 2002 for his portrayal of the gay teen who links his favorite Emmy host-actor on HBO's now-departed hit "Six Feet Under."

Many critics thought he was equally deserving of a mention for his chillingly nuanced role as Dexter Morgan.

Another glaring omission from this year's race, for some Emmy watchers, was the NBC football drama "Friday Night Lights." The fresh-man show, nearly canceled due to low ratings, was a leading critics' choice for best drama but failed to make the cut except in two minor categories.

Shut out

Some popular past Emmy winners also failed to secure a spot in the leading categories this year.

Last year's big winner, the fire-espionage thriller "24," was shut out of the top drama contest, as was the 2006 champion, ABC's hit summery thriller "Lost," which got snubbed for a second year in a row.

The lack of Emmy love for "Lost" was especially surprising in light of revised voting rules designed to address flaws blamed for the show being overlooked last year until shows becomes awards people. Since 1994, host of the Los Angeles Times' website wrote,"Hollywood.com.

Meanwhile, Fox's smash hit "American Idol" earned seven more nominations on Thursday to shoring a fifth fall for best reality-competition program. It remains to be seen whether it will face against rival CBS's hit "The Amazing Race."

Offbeat says "Idol," whose Emmy tally now stands at nine wins for 32 total nominations, is just three hours away from tying the record held by Bob Newhart's second sitcom.

"Hewhart," as biggest series loser in Emmy history—now wins for 20 nominations.

Biggest disappointment

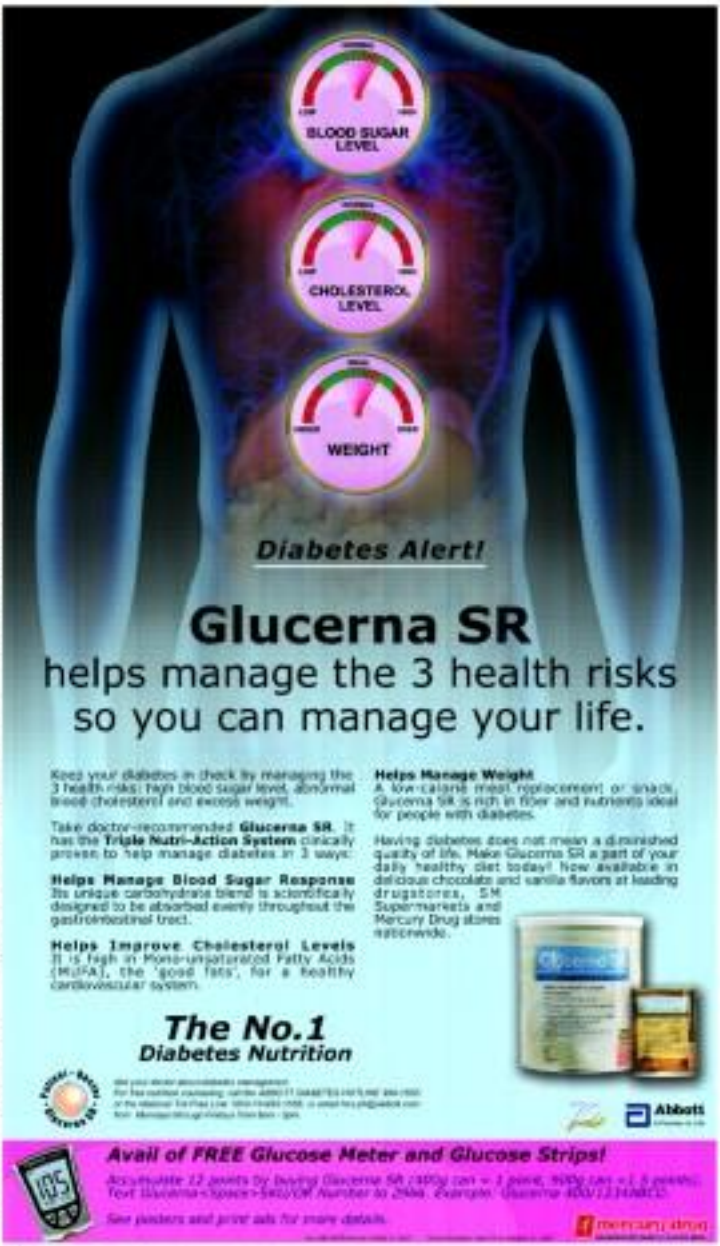
Still, Hall's failure to land a nomination for "Dexter" was "the single biggest disappointment on the acting side" for many critics, he said.

Not that the voters of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences are rewarding even regular the work of actors who play morally corrupt or emotionally damaged characters.

James Gandolfini has three best actor Emmys, and was nominated again this year for his role as conflicted New Jersey mob boss Tony Soprano.

And all four of his most rivals for best actor in a drama play cheekered roles. James Spader won as an ethically challenged lawyer on "Boston Legal," Hugh Laurie as a philosophy, grouchy doctor on "House," Denis Leary as his fighter battling all manner of personal demons in "Rescue Me" and Kiefer Sutherland (last year's winner) as a secret agent who tortures people on "24."

Reuters



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NUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

LOVEBOOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHONGLO

ATOMIC ANDY MOODY — BY LYNN GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEPHEN PASTUKHOV

BIKO MACHINE — BY TRIXIE ABBEN

MAGNOGNOMON — BY JONATTSOO

TULODS — BY PAPU AND TATUM HUMBLEBEE

BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

9	5	4			6			1
		2			4			9
			5	9		7	3	
6	1	7	9		5			
		3			6			
			4		8	3	1	7
3	7		6	8				
8			5			7		
5			7			1	2	8

Difficulty Level: ★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com/

Answer to previous puzzle

2	9	8	6	1	4	3	7	5
3	5	6	2	9	7	8	4	1
7	1	4	3	8	5	6	9	2
8	7	2	1	5	9	4	6	3
1	4	5	8	3	6	7	2	9
9	6	3	7	4	2	1	5	8
4	3	1	9	2	8	5	6	7
5	2	7	4	6	3	9	1	8
6	8	9	5	7	1	2	3	4

Difficulty Level: ★★★★★

Fundraiser features The CompanY live

FRESH FROM A SERIES OF SHOWS AT THE Capitol's Bar of Wonders Oriental Hotel, The CompanY returns for more live performances starting with a fund-raising gig on July 27, 8 p.m. at Shenzhou, 47 West Avenue, Quezon City.

Provincial shows follow on July 28 in Naga City and Aug. 15 in Davao.

KASTIGO

Kastigo album launch

The hype is that former Wedgwood and now independently threesome Wolf Gremore has sailed the new band Kastigo as the "future of Pinoy rock." After making the rounds of schools and bars around Manila, Kastigo launches its debut album "Our Daily Hate" with a show on Aug. 2, 8 p.m. at Mondo Cafe Bar in Greenhills 3, Makati.

Incubators), Aug. 6 (Nurturing Foundation of the Philippines), Aug. 13 (Hotels Invited), Aug. 22 (Manila Philharmonic Orchestra Foundation) and Aug. 30 (Carmel Community Foundation).

Freddie Santos directs and Maestro Bold Colberson conducts a 28-piece ensemble from the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra.

All shows start at 9 p.m. and tickets cost P600. Or Call 7234510 loc. 116 and 09287347123.

Avenue Q' in Manila

Atlantis Productions' upcoming production of the Tony award winning Broadway smash hit, "Avenue Q," will be directed by Bobby Garcia and Chad Kemperschoga.

Garcia recently directed Broadway Asia's international tour of "The King and I." He is also busy with the pre-production of Badjao's and Fiesmonster's "Cinderella" which will star Lea Salonga; and the Manila production of Jessica Hagedorn's "Dogeaters."

Kemperschoga was the director of youth-oriented musicals such as "Stork," "Footloose," and the musical-in-progress production of "High School Musical."

"Avenue Q" opens on Sept. 7 at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Makati.

Call 8921978.

THE COMPANY

SHOW TIME

BIMBO CERVILLO

Tonight

Art Manenting at RJTV Bar. Call 899-1408

Family Affair in Mo'li's Bistro

Tomorrow

Dido Advintera at RJTV Bar

Jovelus and Soaked Out Band at Mo'li's Bistro

LUKE MEJARES

Concert tour

Luke Mejares premiere his second solo album, "Paegalan" (Sony BMG), with a concert tour in the Visayas and Mindanao.

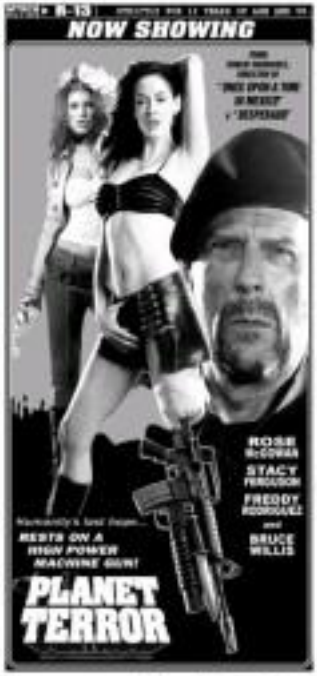
The tour kicked off recently in Cebu and proceeded to Bohol. Luke's home province. The Mindanao leg starts on Aug. 17 (Bindoman Xavier University Gym, Marawi City), Aug. 18 (MSU Gym, Iligan City), Aug. 21 (Silmonia Gym, Silmacis City), Aug. 23 (Mindoro Gym, Oroquieta City), Aug. 29 (Pagadian Gym, Pagadian City) and Aug. 25 (Dipolog Gym, Dipolog City).

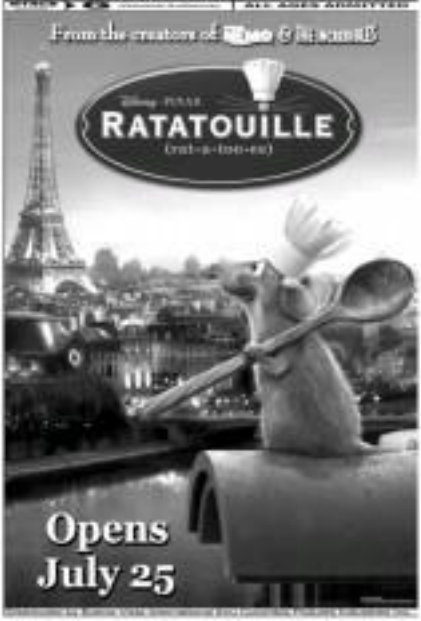
Concert series

Bimbo Cervillo premieres a variety of memorable tunes in the fundraising concert series, "Cervillo Classics: Songs from Songs and Screen," at the Teatrino in Greenhills, on the following dates: Aug. 2 (guitar night for sponsors and benefactors), Aug. 6 (Nurturing Foundation of the Philippines), Aug. 13 (Hotels Invited), Aug. 22 (Manila Philharmonic Orchestra Foundation) and Aug. 30 (Carmel Community Foundation).

Freddie Santos directs and Maestro Bold Colberson conducts a 28-piece ensemble from the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra.

All shows start at 9 p.m. and tickets cost P600. Or Call 7234510 loc. 116 and 09287347123.





Joey and Louie show: Just like old times

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

HERE WAS THE VOICE behind fists big hit "Tell Me."

Long before Ogie Alcasid, there was the sassy Albert Louie Ocampo singer-composer-tandem that ignited gold in the band mania hits, circa 1980s.

Fast forward to 2007. They are reuniting—onstage at least.

Albert, who's now a preschool teacher in Canada, is in Manila for a show with Ocampo, "Tell Me Once More" as an ang. I and Lea the Music Museum.

The way Albert remembers it: "The setbacks-time sealed when I called Louie to the dorms (are in November) in the Univ. of Santo, to help raise money for the General Ballanga village scattered to see."

The last time they worked together was 20 years ago, also broke back. "Working with Louie was both fun and productive. We enjoyed the creative process."

The first time she met him in 1983, "he was wearing blue jeans, a white tennis shirt and tall shoes."

"I just arrived from the US (Berklee music school). That was my punk stage," Ocampo chuckles. "She was in pantyhose-Batman clothes! I found a meeting in their home with her sister Marissa who was a talent manager then."

She surmises that their common love for music made their partnership click.

"I worked as her musical director for her album," he agrees. "We can make music easily with other even without talking.

Girl THE cover of Ms and Ms. magazine

After two decades, singer and composer reunite—onstage, at least

(2007 Albert and Louie Ocampo

Everyone on long evenings. [We just use sign language onstage.]"

Among their collaborations, the singles was "Have Long sing Rhinestone" as her favorite. Among the songs he didn't write for her? "Say That You Love Me" [by Basil Valdez.]

Ocampo's choice is "Tell Me." "I was one first hit together."

She says that she's looking forward to their Manila concerts. "It's a little strange," she owns up. "I don't really know what to expect. But the prospect is enriching, of course."

Her only expectations? "I just hope we have fun. Just like old times."

Indeed, a lot has changed since their last collaboration. They've got new material, but not to each other. She is married to two girls; he is dad to three girls and a boy.

Musically, they've also evolved.

"I still love singing ballads," she explains. "But I think my voice has changed a bit since I've been exposed to various styles abroad."

She opines that Ocampo's music has remained basically unchanged. "It's an idiosyncratic and passionate—as I've always loved."

Ocampo says Albert has matured "but remained the same."

On top of school and home chores, Albert also finds time for her advocacy work.

"I do chores for United Ballanga in the US and Canada," she relates. "I recently produced a Philippine Cultural Night at the Chan Centre for Performing Arts. It involved different Filipino artists based in Vancouver, classical pianist Dorothy Lozano, Dancesing percussive, soulstar, Montreal Rhythms. I also support the Philippine Commission in their efforts to promote the dual citizenship program and overseas voting.

For this visit, Albert will be in Manila for three weeks.

"I don't time traffic and inefficiency, but I miss my family, friends and the warmth of Filipinos the most," she says.

New CD no sweet ending for Orange & Lemons member

ABBY reports that band gathered and vocalist Chin Cudilla has been kicked out of the band. Orange and Lemons released its new studio album, "Monotone Gardens" (Sonic-Soul Records), featuring the summer single "Autophobia/Bring Whatever/Kabisa."

SPIN

"Monotone Gardens" is the band's major label foray since its "breakthrough" the mainstream, released several platforms and spawned the hits "Pinoy Ako," "Hanggang Kailan" and "Hindi Kailan."

Telephrama theme song

Jose Mikaelsha records the theme song of ABS-CBN's new telefantasy "Babaeng Ito Ang Diyos?" the version of the Gary V original is one of 15 cuts in the compilation album "Pop-ular: A Collection of Soulful Love Movie & TV Themes" (Universal Records).

Other artists in the CD are Bamboo ("Ang Pag-ibig"), Sharmaine ("Hindi Ko Alam"), Regine Velasquez ("Bawat Sandali"), Kyla ("Sandaling Kasama Ka"), Ted Rocacio ("Sandaling Sabihin Ko"), Gerard Santos ("Kung Ikaw Lamang"), Georgie Dick ("Bitter") and Rannkeanu ("Third Day Night"), among others.

LIANE MIGUEL LUCHA

Ex-Sugababe goes solo

Mutya Buena, former member of the female singing group Sugababes, goes solo in her debut album, "Real Girl" (MCA). It features collaborations with George Michael, Amy Winehouse and Groove Armada.

MUTYA BUENA

The album's first single, the title track, reached the U.K. Singles Chart at No. 11 on downloads alone, and climbed to No. 2 after its CD release.

Born in Kingsbury, London, Buena was raised by her Irish mother and Filipina father. She made its debut as a member of Sugababes, which was originally a girl group also co-founded with a childhood friend. It has sold over nine million albums worldwide.

Streisand's live album

Barbra Streisand's concert release, "Live in Concert 2006" (Sony BMG), is a two-CD collection that captures performances from her recent tour.

Tracks were recorded at New York's Madison Square Garden, Washington (D.C.) Verizon Center, and Fort Lauderdale's Bank Atlantic Center.

In the album, 26 musical extravaganza scenes of her best-loved standards adds in re-visiting some rarely performed songs from her back catalog. It also contains duet versions of "Evergreen," "The Music of the Night" and "Somewhere" with the jazz-specific quartet ECHO.

Streisand is the No. 1 best-selling female recording artist in history and the only woman to make the Top 10 all-time best-selling artists list, which includes Elvis Presley and The Beatles.

Rihanna riding high

Barbadian teen singer Ri-hanna is riding high on her hit third album, "Good Girl Gone Bad" (SRCA), release first one gle, "Umbrella," has reached number one on two countries including the United States.

This album is also riled on hearing as side title hosted with Rihanna's signature hip hop and Caribbean sound. It was co-produced by rap stars Jay-Z and Timbaland, with contributions from R&B singer Ne-Yo and Justin Timberlake.

A hit called 'Rehab'

British singer-songwriter Amy Winehouse, who has earned five Grammy Awards and Ivor Novello Awards, is known for her hit single "Rehab," which is about her refusal to attend an alcohol rehabilitation center after it was encouraged by her former management company.

Amy's music is described as a mix of jazz, pop, Motown, doo-wop and the beat. Her voice has been compared to Aretha Franklin, Ella Fitzgerald and Macy Gray.

Iglesias: the 'lessons-lay'

Multi-platinum, Ribbon-raised singer Enrique Iglesias goes sport from covers to originals for his nine album, "Insomniac" (MCA). The title of which is also characteristic of his long nights and silent, also artistic persons. "For three years I worked all night and slept during the day," he says.

"I've been in production activity. He. The recent insomniac was the first that came to mind when I was thinking of a suitable album title."

Some of the album's highlights include "Hush," a hip-hop collaboration with Lil' Wayne, and "Bring My Back," an up-tempo with Dominican song writing partners

Connecting with one of RP's living jazz maestros

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

'Ugnayan' inspires young musicians to bond with elders

REVIEW

TO DISCOVER THAT PINOY JAZZ was born in 1930s—the same year that Elvis Presley shook the world with rock 'n roll—is quite a surprise.

But such is learned the music of Angel Peña, one of the country's jazz musicians, is now available on CD, is cause for palpitations.

For the wonderful development, some key people were involved, but one is the recording itself. Just in case few of you remember with Peña through intuitions in collaborate in concerts and interviews that saw print in an award-winning book and appeared on video.

Those key people were Ernesto Dalisay Jr., Rocky Quirino, Tim Yumul-tos and several others. The three of them, ecumenically, studied and graduated with honors at Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts.

Cast of characters

They may have learned a lot of style and technique in that elite music school, but to their own words recently meeting with Peña had an impact like would of let the rest of their musical lives.

Peña, now the four still lucid and sharp in memory returned to Manila in 2003 after touring in California and spending many years as arranger and bass player of the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra.

In Manila, he collaborated with Jaime Ponce and Wilfredo Mapua of the UP Jazz Ensemble (later joined by Ernesto and Prof. Roger Lindo of the UST Jazz Band) in composing and arranging big-band charts that were performed by those students.

[Jazzmen also supported Peña's words and recollections in the book "Pinoy Jazz Tradition" (2005) and the DVD "Pinoy Jazz: The Story of Jazz in the Philippines" (filmbyboyet.ph—both of which documented how Filipinos adapted a foreign music form into their own idiom through talent and ingenuity.

In these projects, Peña talks about a cast of characters that played major roles in the development of Pinoy jazz. The memory of these folks comes to life in the CD.

Fondly titled "Ugnayan ni Maestro Angel Mamac Peña" (Manila Metro Sony BMG), the CD has bulungs as record producers and conductor of a 27-piece jazz ensemble he calls The Global Manila Orchestra.

It contains 13 tracks, all written and arranged by Peña, who says the music reflects the "nationalist" between Americans and Pinoy jazz.

In the liner notes, Peña specifies the dates when some of the songs were written, while others skip that detail and instead discuss what memories came—how the music took form and who in particular inspired its creation.

With this information, the listener understands, for example, that "Tony Speaks" is about the drummer Tony Velarde. The music he drums paired and how Peña adds refinements are using accompaniments that weave in and out of the guiding rhythm—performed in the manner by Jorge San Jose.

Most, if not all of the tracks, has the been as head movements.

Pinoy sentiments

"Drumboogaloo," dedicated to roommate player Jose Bagas and featuring Sebastian Mallapares, is the perfect piece to appreciate the Cuban and swing percolation.

"Bossa," inspired by saxophonist Sandhog Aranzanso, has Michael Guevara's recreating a mood whose lyricism radiates intimacy on any time of day.

"Bam" is a jam between trumpet and alto sax by Lindo and Valentino, respectively that's displays outstanding styles and encourages freedom through improvisation. The energy ripped out by bebop arrangements, is infectious.

Several cuts unmistakably capture Pinoy sentiments.

"Nida," starring the Villoso-Osorio on piano, Steven Gonzaga on flugel horn and Edgar Aveno on guitar, is a samba piece that recalls Peña's youth while riding on a borrowed Harley Davidson—very rush 'n' roll in imagery yet also hypnotic that with melodies accessible to mainstream ears.

Connecting with elders

"Bam Beyond," a tribute to one player Leo Molina and featuring Guevara on alto sax, is narrative and affecting, bordering on the musical subtexts that underlie films.

"Ang Ibon sa Liner Hut," about the memory of Hotel Nikko, is full of affection that Peña could've written with a stable, subtle "Bossa is silly Tones," where bassist Boggo Herrera, evokes more good times via the striding rhythm of the instruments.

But the last two tracks are the album's pieces de resistance. "Bayabas" (co-written by Quirino) and "Ugnayan Jazz Fantasy Boplegolambing" incorporate ethnic percussion instruments that synthesize the atmospheric and holistic, as well as the notion of compatibility and faith, that define the land and our ancestors.

The importance of "Ugnayan" lies not only in its desire to proclaim that genius eventually becomes part of Filipino culture. It has also inspired the younger generation of jazz musicians to connect with its elders—in the case, four to five with Peña who has lived and breathed the music for the longest time.

Final screenings for The Game Girls talent search

FINAL SCREENINGS FOR ABS-CBN Entertainment's reality TV search for the next all-girl pop group, The Game Girls, will be held on July 28.

The search, which continues for hours of a talent search beauty pageant, is open to Filipino women between 18 to 23 years old who have the beauty, energy, singing personality and command, big singing and dancing skills.

All make it a recording deal, a talent management contract and an endorsement prize worth P1,000,000.

Auditions are also for singles and have never been married nor given birth, or least high school graduates and of good moral character.

Interested parties are requested to prepare two performances—one song and dance, and one purely song number. They must also bring a resume, audition, resume, profile photos and photocopy of birth certificate at the Song ABS-CBN Broadcasting Center, 179 Sgt. Esguerra Ave., Quezon City, Metro Manila, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on July 28.

For more information, call 924-4141 local 2000 to 2007 or 0917-5111.

INQUIRER

Dare to ask. Be an Inquirer.

R-13 OPENS JULY 25

THE STAR OF "JUST MY LUCK" IS BACK IN ANOTHER HEART-WARMING ROMANTIC-COMEDY

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EARTHQUAKES, TSUNAMIS, VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS...
FIRST JAPAN...THEN SOUTHEAST ASIA

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TONIGHT!

Hello, God

Love has the power to change everything.

Monday-Friday, 7:30 pm

Channel 11

ENTERTAINMENT

ED LEJANO ("Smuggling na Bawal"), right, with Adolf Alix Jr. ("Badla") says he is ready to face disqualification.

AN EXHIBIT of the featured films at the CCP lobby

Cinemalaya 2007 reels off

All's well save for one full-length film entry that faces disqualification

JOHN Arcilla, Baltazar Endriga and Nestor Jardin

By Rholmel R. Cruz
Photos by Rudel Ruloni

ED LEJANO'S "SINUNGALING na Bawal," a film competing in the full-length category of this year's Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival, may face disqualification for failing to submit its final copy in time for its gala screening on Saturday.

Inquirer Entertainment learned that only its film's rough cut was screened on Saturday afternoon. The screening had to be stopped due to technical difficulty.

"I'm ready to face anything," Lejano said when asked to comment on an impending disqualification.

As of press time, the festival's organizing committee is deliberating on Lejano's case.

"Smuggling na Bawal" tells of three dysfunctional characters who share a common experience of falling victim to a pattern of irony and fate. A farewell letter from this respective set-losers under the stories of Myla, Dennis and Cardo.

Last year, two films—Jon Lucero's "Mga Anino sa Apoloap" and Rhoda dela Cruz's "Lourdesia"—were disqualified for failing to meet the deadline. Each filmmaker was given a P100,000 production grant.

Raffiana Mendoza's "Foster Child" opened this year's festival, which was attended by filmmakers, head screens Dhorop Pre Preacher, producer Angela Domingo, child actor Jiro Manio and producer Bobbie Tan of Neo Films.

"I am so proud of the people who really worked for this film," reported Tan during his welcome speech.

Priscilla Jiro Thelma, a foster mother from the slums who receives P1,500 monthly from the government for every child placed in her care.

EDDIE ROMERO

LEONICE GUILLEN-FELIZO

BIENVENIDO LUMBERA

CHRISTINE DAPIST and JACEY ATIENZA of the Film Development Council of the Philippines

DANCERS who performed at the opening ceremony get "Foster Child" star Bor Segundo (with mong) spooked.

"Foster Child" is the only Filipino film featured at The Director's Fortnight's section of the recently concluded Cannes International Film Festival in France.

"Ang Pagkalalaya ng Cinemalaya ay isa-kumong na sa pagiging Big Time, di bale ng liit na mabibi na festival kung—patuloy ang buong Pinoy Artists na sponsor ay high school na sa Pinoy," said festival director Noemi Avelin "On the language of Cinemalaya," as he announced the beginning of the 10-day film extravaganza on Friday night at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) in Pasay City.

Cinemalaya co-founder's welcome remarks another of notable Cinemalaya-produced films—Auraeus Solito's "Ang Pagkalalaya ni Mariano Oliveros," Mario Gerardo and Rina-ree Jimenez's "Big Time," Mike Sandejas' "Tulad ng Dati," Chet del Mundo's "Pepot Artista" and Solito's "Dasig" one of this year's nine full-length entries.

A production number following the festival's theme, "The New Breed," was one of the highlights of the night. But while members of Bulilit Philippines impressed the audience with their choreographic chants, they got "Foster Child" lead child actor Bor Segundo spooked. The boy failed to go up the stage when his name was called to mark the end of the ceremony.

Key-noted Ateneo Barangay Lumbera and Eddie Romero—whose digital film "Basic of Love" will be screened during the festival—also attended the opening ceremony. Other prize-winning independent filmmakers like Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil and Sharon dela Cruz also graced the event.

The members of this year's selection committee for short film feature are Emily Abrera, Johnny Delgado and Kidlat Tahimik. Full-length films selection committee members are Manet Duyet, Jeffrey Jeturian, Bobbie Tan, Neric Teti-roid, Jocelyn Bonifacio.

This year's production and monitoring committee members are Aballer, Ima-Abera and Cecile Gabionzo. Cinemalaya resource persons are Tan, Tess Fuentes and Michael Idioma.

NATHAN LOPEZ

ALLAN PAULE

ELLEN ONGKEKO-MARFIL

MIKE SANDEJAS

FILIPINO JURY composing under the short film category

JIM Libiran ("Tribu") and Bobbie Tan